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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
THE COMMON CAUSE
OF HUMANITY.

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"We are driven back, for our next tray
A newer strength to borrow,
And where the vanguard camps to-day,
The rear shall rest to-morrow."

ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES (NUMBER OF SOCIETIES IN THE UNION 500).

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is a great association of men and women banded together for the single purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. It was founded in 1867, and now numbers over 52,000 annually-subscribing members, organized into 500 Societies, under the presidentship of Mrs. Henry Fawcett. The colours of the Union are SCARLET, WHITE, and GREEN. Among its members are people of all parties, and people of none. The cause that unites them is the cause of Women's Suffrage, and they work for victory by peaceful methods only. They utterly repudiate methods of violence and rely on political pressure and the education of public opinion. WILL YOU JOIN? (Membership form on p. 348.)

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Notes and Comments.

The Bishop of London's Bill.

We print elsewhere an expert report on the Committee stage of the Bishop of London's Bill, which was reached last Monday night. The amendments carried on the motion of the Lord Chancellor are such that, unless the Bill is restored on report to something approaching its original form, the purpose for which it has been framed will be rendered practically inoperative. Without entering upon technicalities, it may be stated in brief that these amendments are mainly directed to protecting young men from wicked and designing women and girls. It is right that some protection should be given, and the Bishop of London would willingly concede all necessary safeguards ; but when it is represented that young men of twenty years of age, and of University standing are helpless victims, and that nearly all other considerations should be sacrificed on their behalf, we maintain that those employing such arguments are committing that very offence of sentimentality of which they are only too ready to accuse the important public who are behind the Bill as it stands. Blackmail is a danger, and safeguards against it should be provided; but it is a danger grossly exaggerated, and it is one to which juries are keenly alive. The Lord Chancellor pleads pathetically for the young men up from the Universities, but law has an educative effect, and some fear of punishment may, after all, do them no great harm. But when it is sought to arouse emotional sympathy with their youth and ignorance, let us not forget to compare their chance of learning decency and self-control, with the chances those have had who are represented as their destroyers. Indeed, we agree with the Lord Chancellor that " it is so easy for people who have real moral force, but who are ignorant of the difficulties of the question, to propose amendments, but it is so hard to get the right amendments." That is so. But, to put it shortly, we think the Lord Chancellor has himself failed in this matter, and that his are not the right amendments. A letter on the subject has appeared in *The Manchester Guardian*, signed by Mrs. Fawcett, Miss C. M. Whitehead, Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Macmillan, Dr. Inglis, Lady Sydenham, Miss Bertha Mason, and Mrs. Broadley Reid, and we are convinced that the forces behind these names will prove by no means inert. Politicians are slow to learn it, but the time has gone by when, merely by characterising such forces as sentimental—ignorant—hysterical, it became possible to ignore them.

Forcible Feeding.

" *Ordered here by the Secretary of State!*" So writes Mr. Harry Humphries from the Bucks County Asylum, on July 14th. According to the statement of his case in *The Manchester Guardian* of July 20th, Mr. Humphries is not a Suffragist, but holds himself to have been unjustly sentenced, and, believing that the " Cat and Mouse Act " applied to all prisoners, he refused food, was forcible fed nearly 240 times, and was removed on March 23rd to the County Asylum, near Aylesbury. In a letter he has addressed to Dr. McIntosh, Chairman of the Medical Protest Committee, he expresses his opinion that the medical doctors at the asylum have endeavoured to get his discharge, but that an appeal he has made to the Commissioners in Lunacy has been without result. On July 17th he was visited by Dr. McIntosh, and on July 18th by Sir Victor Horsley and Dr. Haden Guest, who all report that he exhibited no signs of insanity. It appears that he has taken his food since entering the asylum. The above gentlemen, together with Dr. C. Mansell Moullin, and Dr. Frank Moxon, have issued a statement to the press to this effect, dated July 19th, which concludes as follows :—" The Protest Committee consider that forcible feeding and forcible injections into the bowel (enemata) are abominable outrages. If to these we have now to add the possibility of a sane prisoner being transferred to a lunatic asylum, the liberty of the people is being very gravely compromised." The reference in the first clause is to the terrible case of Miss Gordon.

As we have already stated, the Council of the N.U.W.S.S. last February condemned the forcible feeding of prisoners, as practised by the Government, and urgently demanded that the practice should cease. It has not ceased—cases such as that of Miss Hall, Miss Gordon, and Mr. Humphries show that there is a state of things still existing behind prison walls which cannot be tolerated, and for which plausibilities and equivocations, and logic choppings fail to establish any justification. The practice of forcible feeding degrades the Home Office, the prison doctors, the wardresses, it is a grievous wrong against the prisoners; and it is now shown that it leads straight on to other abuses of our constitutional liberties. Further, it tends to arouse sympathy with law-breakers as such, and creates a morbid atmosphere in which even-handed justice becomes an impossibility. It has been officially claimed that the " Cat and Mouse Bill " is a success as a deterrent from crime ; if it is not, it is the business of the Government to find some other way out of a position for which its own stupidity is partly responsible.

Married People's Income Tax.

The Committee stage of that portion of the Finance Bill bearing upon the incomes of married people has naturally aroused painful interest amongst those concerned. It is not generally felt that Mr. Lloyd George's defence of his proposals in the matter has proved very convincing. Granted that he has taken a step in the right direction, this step, nevertheless, reminds us a little of the dancing lessons of our youth—" one step forward, and now a little step back," the result being more apparently graceful than indicative of much progress over the slippery floor. Mr. Cassel pointed out, in one of his admirable speeches that, though some concessions are made (in the matter, for example, of allowing separate assessment if demanded six months previous to collection of tax), yet the main grievance remains that—

" husband and wife are called upon to pay more income-tax in proportion to their ability to bear taxation than either bachelors or spinsters, or persons who live together, or whose relationship is of any other description than that of husband and wife legally married."

He made a gallant attempt to get this grievance remedied, at least, in cases where the joint income was below £500. Lord Robert Cecil gave full value to the financial difficulties which confront Mr. Lloyd George ; but he suggested likewise an instalment of justice in regard to incomes below £700. Touching on the plea of " household " rather than personal taxation, he quoted Miss Hicks' argument that if this plea is to hold, it should apply, not only as to husband and wife, but also as to father and daughter, and he concluded with an unanswerable argument in these words :—" We, as a body, have refused to enfranchise them (women), and we are bound, therefore, to treat their claims with special consideration."

Buckingham Palace Up-to-Date.

Commenting on Mr. Asquith's announcement that a Conference to consider the Irish situation is meeting at Buckingham Palace, the Labour Party " put on record their surprise that two representatives are practically rebels under arms against constituted authority, and regret this indication that in future organisation of force is to be officially considered to be most effective in industrial as well as in political disputes." The adherence to constitutional methods of agitation on the part of the official Labour Party on many occasions when they have suffered intense provocation does them credit, and we trust that no consideration of supposed expediency will tempt them from their honourable position. We hope rather that this Buckingham Palace Conference is no concession to physical force, but will shortly be followed by another, when Mr. Asquith for the Liberals, with Sir Edward Grey for the Liberal Suffragists, Mr. Bonar Law for the Unionists, with Lord Robert Cecil or Mr. Balfour for the Conservative Suffragists, and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald for his Suffragist Labour Party, will meet Mrs. Fawcett for the non-party Constitutional Suffragists, Mrs. Pankhurst for the physical force Suffragists, Lord Cromer and Miss Pott for the Anti-suffragists, Mrs. Creighton for general social and philanthropic organisations of Suffragist women, Miss Bertha Mason for organised Suffragist Temperance women, Mrs. Acland or Mrs. M'Laren for Suffragist Liberal women, Lady Selborne for Conservatives, Miss Mary McArthur or Dr. Marion Phillips for Trade Union and Labour Leagues, Miss Llewellyn Davies for the Co-operative women, Mrs. Scharlieb for medical women, Mrs. Sidgwick for the Universities, Miss Tuke or Miss Cleghorn for the teaching profession, Miss Ashton for women in local government, with the Bishop of London or Oxford for Church of England Suffragists, Dr. Clifford for Nonconformists, and perhaps the Archbishop of Canterbury or York in the chair. If such a conference as this were to foregather in the Palace where Victoria reigned as Queen for fifty years, some realisation of forces at work in half the nation might cause one or another of the weary Titans in the " other places " to cry out with the immortal Lady of Shallott, " I am half sick of shadows."

The Young Liberals of Cheshire.

At the meeting of the Young Liberals of Cheshire at Hyde,

on the 19th, Mr. Neilson, M.P. for the division, made the following statesmanlike proposition, "Instead of burying their heads in the sands, like ostriches, men would have to face such other problems as the demand for freedom made by women."

N.U.W.S.S.

The number of societies within the N.U.W.S.S. has now reached 500. We have lately heard something about the deadness of the Suffrage movement. But, alas for the theorists, the N.U. goes steadily on week by week, building up its new societies, and adding surprisingly to the strength of its old ones. We learn from one of these latter that it has just added nearly 1,000 members in a few weeks' "Lightning Campaign."

Their Master's Voice.

Those who wish to believe that the N.L.O.W.S. voices the opinion of the nation must have been grievously disillusioned by the proceedings at the annual Council meeting of that body, if *The Anti-Suffrage Review* report is correct. There seemed no question of the views of more than about twelve persons (or rather of one and eleven others) even within the League itself. Lengthy addresses were delivered by the usual small group of officials, the names of the honorary officers were submitted to the meeting *en bloc*, and one or two motions having official sanction were put and declared carried without discussion. Two attempts at independence were heavily crushed. Miss Frere proposed a scheme for advertising the existence of the League to counteract, as she explained, the pernicious view which she believed was held by many of the public that Anti-suffragists were frivolous. The Chairman, however, promptly desired her to withdraw her motion, talking to her with some show of reason as follows :—

"Really when you remember that statement from Mr. Massie (the statement referred to was evidently too discouraging for publication as it is suppressed in the official report), when you recollect that we have a deficit on the present year, when you realise the strain placed upon us to carry on our ordinary business, I confess that this is hardly the best moment to consider the appointment of a Committee to spend further money on advertisements."

This annihilated Miss Frere, and she withdrew her resolution. Then Tunbridge Wells tried—their proposal was to place on record the League's intention to "uphold the Government in the use of the strongest penalties (*i.e.*, against militant Suffragists) such as deportation, or even, in the case of fanatics on hunger strikes, to let them suffer the extreme consequences." There was no money at stake in this, and the idea was not wholly unattractive to Lord Curzon; but his masculine commonsense again prevailed: "We have our private views," he exclaimed; but, in brief, he feared the public might misunderstand, if they were placed on record! So Tunbridge Wells was ordered to withdraw its little effort, and with a vote of thanks to Lord Curzon carried with acclamation, "the proceedings terminated."

Thus Spake the General Manager of Selfridge's.

"I know of several instances to the contrary, and so do most people. But these are isolated cases. . . . It is futile to allow an instance to obscure a generalisation."

Indeed, it would be a calamity to allow any consideration whatever to obscure so delightfully refreshing a generalisation as that for which Mr. Best, the General Manager of Messrs. Selfridge & Co., Ltd., and writer of the above lines, has made himself responsible. Our readers shall judge, for it is here (he is maintaining that those who advocate that every position should be open to men and women are quite wrong) :—

"One of the principal factors in the case is that of physical endurance. An administrative post in a great department store entails a continuous mental alertness and concentration, and, above all, an ever-present readiness to meet and overcome an emergency. All this demands a great deal from those faculties of strength of purpose, coolness, shrewdness, and dominance which nature has ordained should be essentially characteristic of MAN." (The capitals are ours).

One might have supposed that if "*most people*" know of "*several instances to the contrary*," the soundness of the generalisation was not impregnably established.

Five Editions of the Men's League Paper in August?

Our readers will be palpitating to know where to get Mr. Best's treatise. It forms a sort of leading article in the monthly paper of The Men's League (price 1d., from 136, St. Stephen's House, Westminster). Why it is there nobody knows. The August number will go like hot cakes, because everyone in England will buy one, to find out what the Editor has to say for himself. One or two other things in the July number will want a little explaining in August too. The Editor will need all the coolness and shrewdness he has got, with "ever present readiness," and all the other useful gifts of Nature.

The Age of Consent Bill.

Committee Stage in the House of Lords.

The House of Lords further considered the Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Bill on Monday, the 20th.

The Lord Chancellor, on behalf of the Government, moved to leave out Clause 1 of the Bill, which raised the Age of Consent in cases of indecent assault from 13 to 16, and to substitute a new clause altogether. This provides that :—

"(1) Any person over the age of sixteen who commits any act of gross indecency with a girl of the age of thirteen, or over and under the age of sixteen, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and liable, on conviction, to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding six months, unless he proves that he had reasonable cause to believe that the girl was of or above the age of sixteen years, and that she was in fact of the age of fourteen or upwards.

"Provided that no person shall be found guilty of an offence under this section upon the evidence of one person only, unless that witness is corroborated in some material particular by evidence implicating the accused.

"(2) (*a*) If, upon the trial of any indictment for an offence under this section, the jury are satisfied that the defendant is not guilty of an offence under this section but is guilty of indecent assault, they may acquit the defendant of the first-mentioned offence and find him guilty of indecent assault; and

"(*b*) If upon the trial of any indictment for indecent assault upon a girl, the jury are satisfied that the defendant is not guilty of that offence but is guilty of an offence under this section, they may acquit the defendant of indecent assault and find him guilty of an offence under this section;

and in every case the defendant shall thereupon be liable to be punished as if he had been convicted upon an indictment for the offence of which he is so found guilty.

"(3) If any person is charged before a justice of the peace in England or Ireland with any offence under this section, no further proceedings shall be taken against that person without the consent of the Attorney-General or the Director of Public Prosecutions, except such as the justice may think necessary, by remand or otherwise, to secure the safe custody of that person.

"(4) The second column of the First Schedule to the Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1879, shall include the offence constituted by this section, and there shall be inserted accordingly in that column the words 'committing any act of gross indecency with a girl of the age of thirteen or over, and under the age of sixteen.'"

The Lord Chancellor expressed the sympathetic spirit of the Government towards the Bill, realising there was much suffering on the part of innocent women and children; but they also realised how necessary it was to look at the question in all its phases, and the amendment proposed was the result of advice given by many experts on the matter.

The Bishop of London, whilst grateful for the sympathetic expressions of the Lord Chancellor, pointed out that there was no clear definition of "gross indecency," and that the amendment watered down his limit of age of consent from 16 to 14. In view of the strong public opinion expressed in favour of this Bill, his Lordship could not accept the amendment.

Lord Parmoor, in supporting the amendment, emphasised the need of the greatest care in dealing with the Criminal Law, and instanced several anomalies in the amendments which the Lord Chancellor promised to deal with in the report stage.

Earl Selborne urged that if the law did not allow a child of sixteen to consent to an attempt on her honour, it should not allow her to consent to an indecent assault.

The Archbishop of Canterbury approved of the need of some corroborative evidence as suggested in the amendment.

On a division, Clause 1 of the Bill was deleted, by 52 to 12 votes, and the Government amendment was adopted.

Raising the Age of Consent.

The next clause of the Bill raised the age of consent on the part of a girl to eighteen, in cases of improper intercourse.

The Marquess of Salisbury moved an amendment providing that, in cases coming under Section 5, Sub-section 1, of the Act of 1885, the person charged must be of or above the age of 21 years. His Lordship felt the necessity of providing for instances where young men had been persuaded or influenced by girls of the age referred to, and moved his amendment as some measure of protection for them.

The Bishop of London strongly opposed the motion, feeling that it would be an encouragement, rather than a deterrent to the evil. He would be prepared, however, later on, to provide reasonable safeguard against any possible blackmail in certain approved cases.

The House adopted the amendment of Lord Salisbury, the Lord Chancellor notifying that he would incorporate same in the Government proposals in the report stage.

Our readers will recognise that the principle of the age of 18 is admitted and adopted in certain cases of what has been described as "commercialised vice," but the main plank of the

Bill is considerably affected by the proposal, and it was still further mutilated by the addition of a clause proposed by the Lord Chancellor, as follows :—

"It shall not be a defence under section 5 of the said Act to prove that the person had reasonable cause to believe that the girl was of or above the age of sixteen years, if, in fact, she was under the age of fourteen, and accordingly at the end of the first proviso to that section there shall be inserted the words 'unless she was, in fact, under the age of fourteen years.'"

TWELVE MONTHS' LIMIT CARRIED.

The only clause of the Bill escaping the pruning-knife was that which provides that the limit of time in which proceedings may be taken shall be extended from six to twelve months, and this was adopted as it stood, without demur.

Supporters of the Bill may rejoice in so far as they have secured some slight concessions, but it is up to them to storm the Government with protests against legislation which practically means putting the clock back from sixteen to fourteen.

We hope all interested will initiate a "dead earnest" campaign in support of the Bishop of London's Bill in the immediate future.

In Parliament.

Tuesday, July 14th.

WIDOWS (NATIONAL ASSISTANCE).

MR. W. THORNE (S. West Ham, Lab.) asked the President of the Local Government Board if his attention had been called to the new law now in operation in Denmark, which received the Danish Royal assent on April 29th, 1913, the principle of which is national assistance for widows in the task of bringing up healthy children for the nation; and if he will bring in a Bill to carry out the same objects?

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (President of the Local Government Board): "I have received a resolution from the West Ham Guardians, drawing my attention to the enactment in question. I am not in a position to promise legislation on the subject."

SUFFRAGETTE PRISONERS.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme, L.), MR. W. THORNE, MR. T. M. HEALY (N.E. Cork, N.), and LORD ROBERT CECIL (Hitchin, U.) all asked questions relating to the forcible feeding of Suffragette prisoners under remand, and the refusal of the magistrate, Mr. Paul Taylor, to allow bail to Miss Nellie Hall and Miss Grace Roe.

MR. WEDGWOOD asked leave to move the adjournment of the House, "on a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the forcible feeding in prison of certain British subjects, who have not been convicted of any crime, and who should not, therefore have violence done upon them."

MR. MCKENNA (Home Office) said the prisoners had since been convicted, and that the practice of forcibly feeding unconvicted prisoners had existed for some years.

THE SPEAKER said there was no urgency for a case not going on at the present time, and which might not occur again. "If it does occur, it will be open to the Hon. Member to raise the point again, and I will consider it with an open mind then."

Thursday, July 16th.

FINANCE BILL (COMMITTEE).

An amendment introduced by Mr. Cassel, with a view to securing that at least the incomes of husband and wife should be reckoned separately for purposes of taxation if together they came to less than £500, was defeated by 267 votes to 139.

Friday, July 17th.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN) BILL—THIRD READING.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London, U.) objected to the clause which provided that if a parent was not making suitable provision for the education of a mentally deficient child over seven years of age, the parent would be required to send the child to a class of school suitable for the child, and if he fails to do so, the local education authority may apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, and remove the child to an institution. "We are supposed to be legislating for the people. What we are really doing is preventing the fathers and mothers of such persons discharging their proper responsibilities towards the children."

MR. TREVELYAN (Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education) said a great deal had been done to secure the parent, about whom such anxiety was shown, against any tyranny on the part of the local authorities. It is only when the parent is absolutely indifferent to the welfare of the child that the child is taken from him.

The child might have a mother who was not indifferent, but she evidently is not a parent.

Monday, July 20th.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION BILL.

MR. WHITEHOUSE (Mid Lanark, L.) moved to omit the subsection to Clause 4 of the Bill, providing that a person who has been summarily convicted of an offence, and sentenced to pay a sum of money, the Court may order the prisoner to be searched, and the sum found on him when taken to prison in default of payment to be applied to the payment of that sum.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme, L.) objected to the Home Secretary taking away the option of fine or imprisonment, and placing the power of option in the hands of the magistrates.

"That is the worst of legislation *ad hoc*, because they (the Government) had got into a difficulty on account of the Suffragettes, they rush away and pass legislation which takes away the liberties of the people."

MR. STEEL MAITLAND (E. Birmingham, U.) proposed an amendment to enable the Court to send to a Borstal Institution certain classes of cases, especially young girls over sixteen who solicited in the streets, which could not at present be dealt with in this way. The amendment was negatived.

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Mlle. Alice Berthet gives an interesting account in *Le Courier Europeen*, of the recent Paris demonstration in honour of Condorcet. It is the first occasion upon which French Suffragists have organised a street procession. "What would have happened," asks the writer, "a few years ago, to a woman, standing at the entrance to the public gardens and stopping passers-by, even with the harmless intention of presenting some pleasing token? What abuse and insults would have been showered upon her! But we felt ourselves protected, not only by the presence of hundreds of our own party, not only by the tacit approval of 500,000 Frenchwomen who affirmed their will to be citizens during the recent election, not only by the large number of influential persons, including 226 deputies, in favour of Women's Suffrage, but above all, by the national sense of justice, aroused at last, by the majority of Frenchmen who, knowing at length why we want the vote, want it with us, and for us."

UNITED STATES.

Dr. Anna Shaw, in the Weekly Bulletin of the American Suffrage Association, shows in some detail the grave difficulty with which many States are confronted in altering their constitution in order to include Women's Suffrage

It is, of course, for this reason, that the Bristow-Mondell and the Shafroth-Palmer Amendments are favoured by Suffragists.

The former, now before Congress, provides that no citizen of the United States shall be deprived of the Franchise on account of sex, and this Amendment must be ratified by thirty-six States.

The latter provides for the submission of an equal Suffrage Amendment in any State after the filing of initiative petitions, signed by eight per cent. of the voters of the State Constitution.

Such federal action, as Dr. Shaw explains, "is needed to enable many of our States to take State action on Woman Suffrage, within a reasonable time after a reasonable amount of public opinion is known to be in favour of such action."

British Wives and Foreign Husbands.

The fate of British wives under the Aliens Bill is as yet undecided. It is therefore important that the arguments on their behalf, set out by Lady Aberconway in the letter given below, should receive careful attention, and that pressure should be brought, both here and elsewhere, while there is time.

MADAM,—At a meeting of representative women from the British Dominions Overseas held in London on July 9th, a resolution was unanimously passed disapproving of the clauses relating to married women in the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill. This measure confirms the provisions of the Law of 1870, which first deprived British women of the inalienable rights of British nationality, and has exercised a world-wide influence to the disadvantage of women. The present Bill, which has now reached Report Stage in the House of Commons, emphasises and accentuates the position of British women as aliens, should they marry men who are not British subjects. It directly classes all married women in the status of minors, idiots, and lunatics, and dumps nationalities upon them as though they were inanimate objects. Surely this shows a conception of the present position of women which is altogether out-of-date.

Under these circumstances it is earnestly hoped that steps may be taken to modify the Bill before it leaves the House of Commons. As the Bill aims at securing a world-wide agreement on the subject of nationality, a unique opportunity is afforded of improving the present law with regard to the position of women.

In the first place, we ask that British women who have married men of British nationality, should not be made to forfeit that British nationality against their will, should their husbands become naturalised in another country. We consider that as the man has entered into a contract with his wife under British law, our law should protect the wife by enforcing that contract. Should this prove impossible, owing to the regulations of foreign powers when the husband resides in a foreign land, it is only fair that such a wife should, if she so desire, be freed by British law from a marriage which may impose upon her conditions to which she never assented when she took her vows in her parish church at home. For instance, one of the numerous English residents in Constantinople, might, for business reasons, think it well to become a naturalised Turk. Under these circumstances he could compel his English wife to share a harem with other women, who would have equal rights with her as his wives. He could also without fault on her part divorce her by declaring three times: "I divorce thee, I divorce thee, I divorce thee." Nor could he undo this act until his wife had married some other man, and had been widowed or again divorced. The position of an Englishwoman under such circumstances would be pitiable. She would not remain the wife of a Turkish subject, and on the other hand no means are provided for her in this Bill to recover British nationality. This, of course, is an extreme case, but many troubles and disadvantages are experienced by the British wives of aliens throughout the world, and we claim that their case has a right to full consideration when a Bill affecting the whole British Empire is presented to Parliament. Moore's "Nationalisation Law Digest," a leading text-book published in America, gives many instances of American women married to aliens in various parts of the world, who, when they have suffered cruelty and oppression, have sought the protection of the United States. American law has been recently assimilated to British law, and the petition of all such women is therefore now refused on the ground that by the act of marriage they have ceased to be American citizens.

We contend, therefore, that in every case where a British woman is married to an alien, the very least that the law can allow is to permit her on widowhood, divorce, separation or desertion by her husband, to recover fully and automatically her British nationality, together with all the rights and privileges of a British citizen.

In the case of a British woman married to an alien residing in British territory, it is difficult to see what good end is served by declaring her an alien. The country to which her husband belongs has really never taken possession of her, and it would be a distinct advantage to her, as well as a convenience to her family, if she were allowed still to exercise the rights of a British citizen, free to take advantage of any political privileges the law affords her, free to enter into contracts and business relations without the formal consent of her husband, to retain her property and earnings, as permitted by English law and able to dispose of the same by an English will. As the Bill now stands, no British woman married to an alien is able to make a will except in the legal manner of the country of which her husband is a native.

When a British woman is married to an alien and is living with him in a foreign country, the case is different. The laws of foreign countries usually prescribe that the wife of a subject is herself also a subject of the country of her husband, but I fail to see why, even in this case, she should be forced to renounce British nationality. It might be necessary in some instances for her British nationality to be dormant during the life of her husband, but, nevertheless, any property she might possess in the British Empire might be safeguarded, and reasonable protection might be afforded to her by British representatives in those foreign countries in which she might be domiciled, without stirring up any grave international difficulties.

No man of any nationality can lose his rights as a subject of his own country except by his own directly declared wish, and when we see the value of the protection of a great State to persons in foreign countries who fall into trouble, we are amazed at the drastic manner in which the present Bill deprives women of their British nationality on marriage with a foreigner. We cannot help contrasting the manner in which England treats its own daughters with its behaviour to its daughters-in-law—women of foreign nations who marry British subjects. These women, without taking any oath of allegiance to our institutions, or of loyalty to our King, are nevertheless admitted by the very fact of marriage to the privileges of British citizens, however unfit some of such women, say of Indian or Chinese race, may be to understand British political problems. The cinnamon-coloured children of such marriages are admitted to full rights of British citizenship.

China, following the example of England, has lately declared all foreign women married to Chinamen to be subject to Chinese law—no very pleasant position for a woman of the white race. Some nations, on the other hand, do not grant the civil rights of nationality to the foreign wives of their citizens. The unfortunate British women, therefore, who are the wives of these men may find themselves repudiated by their native country, and thus be left without any nationality at all, and this may occur even though they have never left British territory.

When we reflect that women are taxed throughout the British Empire to pay the salary of legislators and officials, and have a right to have their welfare considered by such officials, we cannot be silent under what we consider an unjustifiable neglect of the interests of women. To class them for the sake of simplicity with idiots, minors and lunatics, and repudiate them utterly under all circumstances and for life should they marry foreigners, is unworthy of the rulers of a great nation which calls itself the "Mother" of a world-wide Empire.

Laura Aberconway.

THE WRONGS OF MEN.

By Elizabeth Banks.

They sat by the club window, and they were discussing the "Women's Movement."

Average Englishmen—gentlemen—they were, with the average intellects, average faults and average virtues. Said one:

"Yes, I think the women have something to complain of. Some of the laws bear hardly on them. They've got certain wrongs to be righted."

Another spoke. "I don't know," said he, "whether they'll do any better for themselves than we men have done for them. Women are hard on women. I've always noticed that."

Still a third. "Well, I'd give them the vote, anyway. They might do some good with it, and they couldn't do much worse than the men have done. I don't take any particular interest in the matter, but I should say there were certain rights the women ought to have which they haven't got at present. I don't know precisely what they are, but it stands to reason that men must have forgotten something."

Now a fourth. He was a man of forty, broad-shouldered, athletic and healthy, with a look in his eyes half fierce, half sad. There were those amongst his friends and acquaintances who accused him of a lack of frankness. He spoke always with a reservation, an air of holding something back. He was the one man in the group who was known really to "do things" in the way of helping along the Women's Movement. He wrote articles for the newspapers and reviews in which he showed his sympathy. Once he had stood up at a great meeting in the Albert Hall and asked a question which proved how decidedly he was in favour of votes for women.

He put his cigar on the ash-tray and his hands in his pockets.

"I'm working to help the women because they will do away with the wrongs of men," he said. "Talk about women's rights and women's grievances, the result of fool laws and fool customs perpetrated by men if you like; but I tell you the wrongs which men suffer are just as cruel, and the women in this movement are the only ones who've had sense enough to see it. Men made bad laws about women, getting them at a disadvantage, and then as a sop to the women they have made worse laws for men—as if that evened things up!"

His companions looked at him in amazement. "For instance!" they cried, "For instance! Give us a case in point!"

"I'm a case in point, myself! I'm a living, damnable example of the wrongs of men! My life's been well-nigh wrecked by one of the laws that are unjust to men, a law that no women electors would ever have allowed to be put on the statute book, a law they'll repeal when they get the vote. At twenty-two I was a clean, decent, honourable young fellow, with a big sentiment and reverence for women. Most young fellows of that age get fascinated with women older than themselves. So did I, and I married the woman, worshipping the very ground she trod on. Six months after our marriage a child was born and, of course, it wasn't mine. The woman of thirty-two had married me to cover up her disgrace, to give her child a father and a name. My people tried to get me rid of her. We consulted solicitors, barristers, judges and great parliamentarians, and I learned I couldn't get free of her unless she was unfaithful to me after marriage—and I may add that she tauntingly assured me she would never be that. According to our great and glorious man-made laws of England I, an infatuated, deceived, decent boy, was the legal parent of this child, and I must give him my name, be responsible for his maintenance.

"I left the woman, of course. I gave her legal cause for divorce, but she wouldn't divorce me. I support her still, I've got her now, a woman of fifty, hanging a millstone about my neck. I am educating her son, another man's child.

"I love another woman. I can't marry her. My God! The Wrongs of Men!"

He had risen—the man who had always spoken with a reservation, who, until now, had held something back. He picked up his hat.

"Well, good night," he said, quite calmly. "The women are holding a big meeting, and I've promised to help them. "Sometimes," he added, with a wry smile, "I convert a dozen or more men at meetings of this sort. I get them to work for the Women's Cause by telling them about the wrongs of men!"

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Correspondence.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION, BRITISH DOMINIONS.

It gives us much pleasure to publish the following cordial messages which have been received from the above Union:—

To Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D. (from Miss H. C. Newcombe).

"The delegates from Overseas at their concluding meeting directed me to offer you their warmest thanks for the message which you sent to them at their Conference on July 9th. They felt your kindness deeply, and your words will never be forgotten."

To Miss Courtney (from Miss M. Hodge).

"Thank you so much for the clear exposition of the aims and methods of your Society at the meeting on the 9th inst. So few of our visitors from overseas have the opportunity of learning to distinguish between the different societies in the remote regions of the British Dominions. It will, therefore, be very helpful for them to learn the excellent definitions that you gave of the object and policy of the N.U.W.S.S. It was so good of Mrs. Fawcett to send us a message of encouragement. Thanking you for your presence and your speech."

THE FOUNDATIONS OF FREEDOM SLIPPING.

MADAM,—In your issue of July 10th, Mrs. Gertrude Carter wrote to ask, first, whether any legal right exists for a judge to exclude women from Courts of Law, and, secondly, what remedy women have when excluded.

Her first question was fully answered by Miss Macmillan's able and interesting article, "The Foundations of Freedom Slipping in the Sand," which appeared in your issue of July 3rd. There is no such power. In answer to her second question, I would advise her to write to the Clerk of Assize to the Guildford Circuit, asking him if the exclusion of women complained of was carried out by the express orders of the judge, Mr. Justice Darling, or whether it was done by the door keepers, who were acting according to the old custom of treating women as children who needed protection from disagreeable things. I believe that would be the case. I know that in other Courts of Assize the door keepers constantly try to keep women out, and tell them that an "indecent case" is proceeding. A little pressure together with a bare statement of the law will generally have the desired effect. Otherwise, a letter explaining the object, and complaining of the illegal exclusion written to the Undersherriff or to the Clerk of Assize, would be the proper course. Both these officials or their deputies will be in Court.

I hope that everywhere women will arrange to attend the courts when offences against children and girls are being taken.

ALMYRA GRAY (Mrs. Edwin Gray).

A HOUSEWIVES' UNION.

MADAM,—In reply to the inquiry in this week's COMMON CAUSE, I beg to say that we have a local Housewives' Committee, and we, too, should like to know if there are others of the kind in existence, and, if not, we think there should be one in every town. It was formed last September by less than a dozen, working-men's wives chiefly. They represent other bodies, such as the Adult Schools, Workers' Educational Association, Co-operative Educational Committee, Women's Guild, &c.

There object is to deal with, or help in any way possible, in all matters connected with women and children and the home, so far as untouched by any other social body in the town. From the first the Housing question has been kept to the front, and building improvement suggested, &c. The need for a school for young mothers was brought forward, with the result now, thanks especially to the generosity of the lady-president and to the whole-hearted co-operation of the health visitors, we have a school of forty members with about thirty babies, and the promise of an educational grant. Other matters include nuisances or sanitary needs, such as ladies' lavatories, which also are now promised by the Council. We have made an unsuccessful but encouraging attempt this year to get a lady on that body. She was opposed and very much misrepresented by the Anti-suffragists. We are interested in the "Raising of the Age Bill" and try to get other bodies to send up resolutions, and have done so in the case of other similar matters.

A detailed list of our work would take too long. Sufficient to say we meet monthly, but special intermediate meetings are sometimes necessary. We get the loan of a room or meet at one's homes. We should like to get in touch with other H. W. C.s.

F. J. ABERCROMBIE.
P. Secretary.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND LEADS?

MADAM,—Many of your readers, while rejoicing at the lead now given by the Church of England to the State in respect of the enfranchisement of women, would welcome some recognition from you that the sister Churches of Presbyterianism and Nonconformity had already led the way.

D. B. MCLAREN.

WIND AND TIDE.

By E. RENTOUL ESLER.

Author of "The Wardlaws," "The Trackless Way," "The Way they Loved at Grimpat," "A Maid of the Manse," &c.

SYNOPSIS.

Kate Burnsley is the daughter of a rough Irish farmer, but her mother had been brought up in a refined and cultured home, and had only married Burnsley because her father, the Rev. John Moffatt, was reduced to poverty. On her mother's death, Kate takes her place as mistress of the farm, and performs her duties well, but she is in thoroughly uncongenial surroundings. Everything in the house that stirs her imagination, that seems beautiful, has come to Kate from her mother's people. Kate worships her brother Neil, who is training as a solicitor, and resents the admiration of Dick Nelson, a handsome but rough young man, who is obliged to work on her father's farm, because his people had wasted away all their possessions while he was still a child.

Later on, Nelson inherits some property, and writes to tell Kate that he is still fond of her; but she answers his letter rudely. A second letter arrives from **Nelson, telling Kate that he has a mortgage on her father's farm, and asking if this makes any difference to her views. She replies that it does not.**

But Kate's father looks at the matter differently. Unable to pay off the mortgage, it does not occur to him that his daughter will "have other views than to save her father and brother," especially as Neil has come home seriously ill. In an interview with Nelson he promises that Kate shall marry him, and rides off in high good humour, leaving the young man ill at ease. "He wanted her so much that he would take her against her will, but only in the hope that **one day she would be satisfied.**"

Persuaded by her father and brother, Kate at last consents to marry Nelson, who, in spite of her reluctance, hopes to win her love in the end. He promises to do everything he can for Neil—who is an advanced state of consumption—and treats the whole family with every consideration and kindness.

Wrapt up in her brother, Kate still remains indifferent to Nelson, and when on the very day of the wedding Neil dies, she realises with dismay that she has made her sacrifice for nothing. After living with her husband a week she leaves him and takes refuge with Mrs. Morgan, a friend of her mother.

CHAPTER XIII.

Four days with a woman who knew all, and accepted all, keeping silence regarding it, merely covering the bier in which it lay with a pall of little duties, little obligations, and little kindly thoughts, had acted on Kate like a benediction. It was as if some one had hung a curtain between her naked, excoriated consciousness and the blast, and, lying still in the momentary shelter, she was able to feel that in spite of her wounds, there was still peace in the world, and joy and hope of a sort, even for her. For the moment she was free, and her liberty was like a wedge driven into the fetter which galled her.

The farm work that at Laganside had irked her, grew suddenly interesting and beautiful. What made the difference, was it all in herself? She did not realise as yet that she was a creature on whom sensory impressions carved themselves deeply, that just as Dick Nelson's beflowered house twanged discords from every aching nerve of her, the unconscious art in the spacious, half-empty rooms in Hillside farmhouse was silently soothing her spirit. At Laganside the cowshed had been too close to the kitchen door, and in wet weather the fowls trod the badly paved yard into mud; furthermore, the house standing on the hillside was under the supervision of the entire neighbourhood, so that every wayfarer could see who drove the cows to pasture, who carried the milk pails to the dairy, and the buckets of food to the pigs' feeding troughs, and what neighbours visited at the house; here life was secluded.

The front windows looked out on what had some aspect of a terraced lawn, a low wall shut in the premises, and a neat iron gate terminated the path from the front door to the high road. The dairy abutted on the house, and afforded a wide frontage which screened the office houses and what pertained to them from the community. The yard was spacious, and the fowls were kept in an enclosure, being only accorded the run of the fields in autumn, when the harvest had been gathered in. This preserved the tidiness of the yard, while its form and position conferred a sense of privacy. Only those within its precincts could observe its occupants.

Irish people do not realise how much their tempers and their personal dignity suffer from the barbarous structural system which places every poor home, every farmhouse in the public eye. A people usually hard up, naturally reserved, generally proud, are so devoid of the art of self-protection that they construct their homes just where they and their calamities constitute a topic for the talk that bubbles to the surface in preternaturally active, and often unoccupied minds. The race will never be able to develop the love that would unite and save it, until individually it defends itself against local observation and that form of criticism which seems more amusing for being malicious.

Mrs. Morgan was pleased by Kate's presence. To the overworked, a helpful visitor comes like an angel. Kate aided her hostess in a variety of ways, milked, made the butter, baked the household bread, fed the fowls, and so lightened Mrs. Morgan's busy day that she was able to don the lace cap and decorated apron which, with her merino gown, constituted evening dress at the farm, in time for tea, leaving the maid-servant to prepare the kitchen supper.

To be tired helped Kate, kept her from thinking, and enabled her to sleep at night. She had never realised her capacity for work until she worked against thought.

It was September now, and already the first flight of swallows had wandered south. Kate had watched them for a day or two, as they organised their parties, with much chattering and fluttering of wings, giving and receiving counsel with many shrieks of admonition and protest. When they set out at last, she looked after them with a sigh. A colony of companionable creatures with a common impulse towards a definite goal. Human nature had nothing like it.

The harvest festival was approaching apace, yet already preparations were being made for next year's sowing.

The unresting operations of Nature, and of those who draw their livelihood from Nature, had formerly wearied Kate, whose natural rate of progression would have preferably been a bound and a pause and then another bound, but latterly she had felt that the method which left no blank intervals for thought was better. If ever the wounds which had gone so deep, should heal, then perhaps she should again want some dreaming time, but for the moment she clung to the driving hand.

Through the yard gate, she could see a section of arable field, up and down which a pair of stout horses dragged the plough that, with its shining share, slowly turned over the long folds of brown earth. In the ploughman's wake a flight of seagulls fluttered, alert for the sluggish worm which the fresh furrow exposed to their fierce eyes. Their slow curves, as they passed and repassed each other, offered lines of pure delight to her observant eyes. She was glad she was sufficiently near the coast to see the gulls come; further inland there were no gulls, and even here they flew seaward towards midday.

She was feeling this, without thinking it consciously, when a man's head introduced itself between her and the ploughing team. Someone was coming up the lane that led from the high road to the Hillside farm. Someone who was young and walked quickly.

As he lifted the latch of the gate, Kate's reminiscent mood passed, her sinews seemed to tighten themselves and her whole frame to shrink. She turned, and with a silent, furtive, stealing step, that somehow recalled a hunted wild creature, ran up the staircase that led to the room Mrs. Morgan had allotted to her. Once there, she sat down on her bed, her fingers interlocked, her eyes alert and resolute.

The man had approached the door, on which he knocked loudly; after a long interval, for she was busy and did not hear at first, the maid-servant opened the door, and civilly received the newcomer's message.

He wished to see Mrs. Morgan, if she was disengaged, if not he would await her leisure. Would the messenger please say that it was Mr. Nelson who wished to see her mistress?

By and by Mrs. Morgan bustled into the parlour, into which her visitor had been conducted. She was somewhat agitated, but held out her plump hand with an air of good-will. She had no ill-feeling to this man whom she had already declared to have been badly treated, and she was prepared to temporise, even to help him to make terms, if that should be possible. What amazed her was his youth. She had not been prepared for that by talk of money loans and mortgages. Her instinctive opinion was confirmed by the sight of him. Here was no brute or tyrant but a dull and bewildered man, little more than a boy.

"I was told my wife is here," he began abruptly.

Mrs. Morgan closed the door behind her, to be out of hearing of the kitchen girl. She had lived long enough to have learned that no misunderstanding or misery is incurable that is kept within a small circle, while trifles develop claws and poison fangs when they have been given a wide publicity.

"She is here," Mrs. Morgan answered pleasantly.

Nelson's eyes wandered idly round the room. He was not conscious that all the little details were printing themselves on his retina, so that, years afterwards, he would be able to recall the patterns on carpet and wallpaper, and to see again the side table on which were ranged curious things sent home by the sailor son: a shell filled with the scarlet seeds of a tropical plant, a string of beads secured by barter from a savage, a small stuffed bird with gay plumage and a disproportionate beak, and a diminutive Icelander in a fur coat shut up in a glass globe that, when turned, made him the centre of a driving snowstorm.

"You might have sent me word," he said after an instant's pause.

"Oh, I could not do that." She smiled at him with her kind lips and disfigured eyes, and the smile made her plain face momentarily beautiful. "You know she came to me as a friend, and, whether she is right or wrong, I could not betray her."

Nelson looked at her gloomily. He struck her as being neither unpleasant looking, nor ill-natured—a man multitudes of women could have liked. At that she sighed, there were so many women who needed a protector.

"Have you ever known a thing like this happen before?" the man asked after a pause, "a woman running away from her home and husband a week after her wedding?"

"No, I can't say I have," Mrs. Morgan answered in a troubled voice, "but she may have had reasons neither you nor I can very well understand. You see she is very young, and a young, fanciful girl married against her will—you don't mind that I mention this?—may think it right to do what older and wiser people would disapprove of. Why did you hurry her, Mr. Nelson? Left to herself she might have come to you of her own accord."

He did not answer. How could he explain the incentive made up of passion and jealousy and anger against the intangible, combined with fear of losing her, and the belief that the hand that secured could ultimately tame her?

"It is done now," he said after a pause. Then he looked at his companion, and his eyes had a wistful appeal in them. "What is best to do next?" he asked.

"I think you had better leave her here; she is willing to stay with me, and I am glad to have her. In a few months things may seem different; anyway you will know she is safe, and you can come to us when you like."

"Do you know that she has made a laughing stock of me, that I am ashamed to be seen, since the people know that she has left me?" he asked.

"Don't think of that," the woman said soothingly. "Talk, what about it, who cares? If you let the clack of the neighbours make you do this or that, there is an end of being your own master."

He made an impatient movement. What did this elderly, pock-pitted woman know of the things that hurt a man?

"I can take her back with me; it is the law," he said grimly.

"I don't know about the law, but I would not do that whether or not; love and the law seem on the opposite sides of the wall. If she does not wish to go back, take my advice and do not try to force her. When the heart is elsewhere the body may be just a devil's cage. The best way to win a woman is by being a man. Tell her you will leave her quite free to stay here if she will; keep to that, and leave the rest to time and me, I am on your side."

"I have been fond of her since she was a little child," he said in a low voice. "I have never given a thought to a woman but her. If she had given me half a chance, I would have been the best of husbands. Am I such a horrible fellow?" he asked, looking up suddenly.

"That you're not. But there is no good in looking for a reason in a case like this, Mr. Nelson. There is no reason in her at present, it is all feeling. Now I advise you to see her and tell her she may have her own way; after that be patient and wait."

He was silent for an instant, then he inclined his head. "Very well," he said.

Mrs. Morgan rose hastily, and ascended to Kate's room. She was eager to see matters on a reasonable footing, wanted these people to shake hands and have a meal together, parting friends, in seeming at any rate. She ran quite briskly upstairs, and tapped at Kate's door. There was no answer; she tapped again, still no answer; then she turned the handle; the door was locked. After a pause she stooped and spoke softly through the keyhole: "There is nothing to be afraid of, dear. Mr. Nelson is here; he only wants to speak to you. He will not interfere with you at all."

No answer.

Then she spoke more loudly. "I give you my word you will not be urged to do anything you do not wish. Come down and talk things over; he only asks to talk things over, he will be reasonable."

Still no answer. Then Mrs. Morgan spoke a trifle impatiently. "I know you are there, try to behave sensibly, no one wants to drive you against your will. You know I can open the door by force in two minutes. Open it yourself like a wise woman."

Continued silence from within. After a final turn of the door handle the good woman went downstairs. "She is locked into her room, and I can't make her answer," she explained rather disgustedly.

Nelson gave a short laugh. "She is difficult to deal with," he said, "and not likely to be any more grateful to you than to me. Well, I'll leave her in peace. Tell her she may have her own way; I will not interfere. I wish we could get this knot untied again," he said, after a dubious pause. "I suppose there is no way to do that?"

"I suppose not, but she may change her mind. I have a kind of notion that she will."

"The time may come when I shall not care whether she changes it or not." Then he rose.

"You'll have something to eat before you go," Mrs. Morgan cried, on hospitality intent, but he said he was not hungry; if he needed food he could get it at the railway station.

She asked him concerning his train, but he did not know the time of this, considered the matter unimportant, would take the first train that came in.

"I wish you would leave a kind message for her," Mrs. Morgan urged a little wistfully.

"Tell her she may have her own way, that is all the kindness she wants from me." Then he said good-bye, and went across the yard and out at the gate without looking back.

Mrs. Morgan went to the kitchen and busied herself there, taking no further notice of her guest. At the moment she heartily disapproved of Kate, and felt that her disapproval expressed itself best by silence.

She set Kate's supper and her own in the parlour as usual, and then sat down to wait while the dishes grew cold. The kitchen lamp was lighted and the kitchen shutters closed before she abated a jot of her dignity. Then she went upstairs, prepared to remonstrate again, but this time Kate's door stood open, a candle burned on the dressing-table, and to the pincushion which stood in the circle of light a note was attached.

"Dear Mrs. Morgan, I am taking flight again," it ran. "You have been very good to me and I am very grateful, but I feel I have no right to drag you further into my troubles. I knew I should soon be found out; this place is too near home, so I am going a stage further afield. I will let you hear from me by and by. For all you have done and wished to do, accept the very best thanks of your grateful little friend, Kate."

Mrs. Morgan read the letter twice, then she said "dear, dear," in an irritated and despondent way. How tiresome this new freak was, just when there was a prospect of a possible amicable arrangement!

She went downstairs after a time, and put searching questions to Ann Jane, the domestic, but in a careless and casual way.

"You know Mrs. Nelson has gone?"

"Yes'm."

"Did she leave the house after or before Mr. Nelson?"

"About fifteen minutes afore him."

"Then she would likely wait for him at the foot of the road." Mrs. Morgan spoke as coolly as she could. It seemed helpful in a small way that Ann Jane should think things were normal in the Nelson family.

(*To be continued*).

GOOD CITIZENS—STAND BY!

A Dialogue.

A: We are getting up a sale of work in aid of the National Union's Election Fund, B. Will you send me a donation?

B: No, A., very regretfully, I must say "No."

A: How is that? Have you lost all your property?

B: No; it is not that.

A: What then, do you disapprove of such sales?

B: No, that is not the reason either.

A: What can it be then? You have surely not changed your mind and become an Anti?

B: Oh, no, it is not that.

A: Well then, you must tell me your reason, for I cannot guess it.

B: Well you see—these militant women——

A: What! You have joined the S.P.U.?

B: Oh, A! How can you say such things? As if *I* would join such a society.

A: Oh, then I suppose you are afraid that if the S.P.U. hear you have sent us a subscription, one of them may burn your flat down?

B: Nonsense, A. The fact is that I have determined, as long as such wicked things are being done in the name of Women's Suffrage, to dissociate myself from the whole movement. It gives me great pain but I can see no other course open to me.

A: That is very interesting; but I don't think I quite understand yet how you come to this conclusion. May I ask you one or two questions to get it clear?

B: Certainly, A.—as many as you like.

A: Well, then—you say you have not changed your mind about the principle of Women's Suffrage?

B: No, I am still as much in favour of the principle as ever I was, but——

A: Wait one minute. And it gives you pain to stand on one side?

B: Great pain.

A: Then you are not doing it to please yourself, or for any selfish consideration?

B: Of course not.

A: And you still wish the Cause to succeed?

B: Certainly.

A: Then you think that by standing aside at this juncture you will be doing the Cause good?

B: Yes, I do think so, because——

A: One moment. You think that public opinion will be influenced by your action?

B: Not by mine only.

A: But that if a sufficient number of law-abiding Suffragists were to act in this way it would have a favourable effect on the public?

B: Just so.

A: Have you a high opinion of the sense of the public?

B: Well—not very, but——

A: You would like it to have a good opinion of your Cause?

B: Yes.

A: You think perhaps, the Public may not be qualified to form a just opinion of the merits of a cause by reasoning, but might be influenced by the kind of people who support it?

B: That is exactly what I think.

A: And if a cause is supported by violent, foolish people, the public will not think much of it?

B: Exactly.

A: But if it is supported by wise, law-abiding people the public may come to think it is a just cause?

B: Yes—I suppose so.

A: Then the *more* law-abiding people support your Cause, the better it will be for your Cause?

B: Ye-e-es.

A: Do you think there are more violent militants in the country than constitutional Suffragists?

B: No, no, I am sure there are not.

A: But if a large proportion of constitutional Suffragists stand aside, the public may believe there are more?

B: I think perhaps I will send you a donation after all, A.

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The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

Under No Act of Parliament.

One day last month Mr. Wedgwood asked Mr. McKenna a question about some advice the police had been giving to owners of public halls as to whether they should or should not let them for meetings of members of the W.S.P.U., and pressed him to say under what Act of Parliament owners rendered themselves liable for the speeches made in their halls. The Home Secretary replied, "Under no Act of Parliament, but under the ordinary exercise of common sense." Now, those who break the law must be punished, and those who run counter to Acts of Parliament must suffer the penalties, and with the position of such we do not propose to deal. But common sense is not necessarily law, nor law common sense. When, therefore, the powers that be base their arbitraments not upon law but upon the ordinary exercise of common sense, we enter in, it becomes our immediate business to consider the situation with care.

We must ask ourselves, for example, whether, in the opinion of those who are being encouraged to exercise it, this common sense is similar to "ordinary logic." The terms are often used almost interchangeably and by the same sort of people, and they not always the most highly-educated nor the most conspicuously broad-minded. However, nobody much minds when an ignorant and violent man or woman "lets off steam," by talking in a violent and ignorant way about something he or she calls "only logic or common sense," but which their more intelligent neighbours recognise as prejudice. But when it ceases to be a question of the wranglings of irresponsible persons, and becomes a question of the public action of bodies which are, or which ought to be, responsible to the public for the exercise of an exceedingly important trust, the matter takes on a different complexion.

Whether some of these bodies which have acquired the power of letting or of refusing to let the public halls up and down the land, are composed of highly educated or moderately reasonable people is a matter of opinion—that all such are not is, unfortunately, a matter of notorious fact. Syllogisms were out of fashion during some years, but they are beginning to flourish again, and will do so abundantly under Mr. McKenna. This is the kind of thing upon which our liberties are to depend:—A is a Suffragist, A has broken the law ∴ Suffragists break the law; B is a Suffragist ∴ B breaks the law; the Town Hall of Bumbleton must not be let to law-breakers ∴ the Town Hall of Bumbleton must not be let to B. This makes a merry game; but as it involves some mental gymnastic, and mental gymnastic is fatiguing to the unaccustomed brain, it is not a game to play for long at a stretch. The Bumbleton authorities do not, therefore go on to,—Sir Sancho Donn said "guns" (which is not lawful); Sir Sancho Donn is a Tariff Reformer ∴ Tariff Reformers say "guns" (which is not lawful) ∴ Bumbleton Town Hall, &c. Or, again: Mr. K—t is a Protestant, Mr. K—t breaks the law ∴ Protestants break the law; Sir E—d Cl—k is a Protestant, Sir E—d Cl—k is a member of the X Y Z Association for Suppressing Female Suffrage ∴ the X Y Z Association must by no means be permitted to hire Bumbleton Town Hall. And, indeed, the Bumbleton authorities do wisely to refrain, for it is a game that could be played *ad infinitum*, and the first round of it, with A and B as the pawns, is all that the "exercise of ordinary common sense" calls for.

We will leave Bumbleton, therefore, and come nearer home, under the shadow of the House of Commons itself. On examination of the local records of the City of Westminster, we find that the powers controlling Caxton Hall sat in conclave about a month ago, and that one Councillor Pullman proposed to them with all solemnity the following resolution :—

"That in view of the recent riots and disturbances arising directly and indirectly from meetings of Suffragettes held in Caxton Hall, it be an instruction to the General Purposes Committee not to let the Hall to any organisation of whatever nature whose object it is to secure the vote for women."

To a gentleman who, like Councillor Pullman, is animated by emotions of cordial sympathy with the movement for opposing female emancipation, the justice of such a proposition might well seem self-evident—it might well appear the last expression of common sense, the neatest thing in Oxford logic. His motion was, in fact, greeted with expressions of warm appreciation, and only because he happened to number among his colleagues a chairman with some sense of decency, and a woman with quite feminine ideas of fair play, his purpose failed wholly to accomplish itself.

But not in Bumbleton and in Westminster only are such things happening. Five or six months ago in Poplar, a little later in Paddington, two months ago in Ipswich, a few weeks back in Hampstead, "common sense" stalked abroad, greedy for its prey, and seeking, by the imposition of "pledges," the demand for special insurances and guarantees and what not of harassing and impossible conditions, to make it impracticable for law-abiding citizens to obtain a hearing in the halls of their country, because, forsooth, their political views are not such as it is possible for the local heavy-weights to understand or to approve.

Law-abiding Suffragists are at this moment making plans for their great autumn campaign ; they will have occasion to book halls, or to try to book them. Let them make a first charge on their energy, a firm and organised resistance to every encroachment of common sense and logic on the part of the heavy-weights. Let them make test cases, if necessary, and bring these cases in a court of law, and challenge that court of law to declare plainly that Suffragists are thus to be penalised—and, incidentally, all women with them—for what is easier than to extend the syllogism just one point : "Suffragists break law ; Suffragists are women .·. women, &c." Let the courts be compelled to declare, if so it is, that this further curtailment of the liberties of women is to be brought about, and by the "ordinary exercise of common sense—under no Act of Parliament."

THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT AND MORAL REFORM.

PROSTITUTION IN EUROPE. By Abraham Flexner. (Grant Richards, Ltd. 7s. 6d.)

THE SOCIAL DISEASE, AND HOW TO FIGHT IT. By Mrs. Creighton. (Longmans, Green & Co. 1s.)

These two books are illuminating to a very high degree, though not, perhaps, to the same class of readers. Mr. Flexner's book appeals to the mature and thoughtful minds of older and more experienced men and women; Mrs. Creighton's, on the other hand, is more fitted to be put into the hands of the young and inexperienced. This statement is in no sense to be taken as depreciating this latter volume, which is wholly admirable, but merely to show how opportune is the appearance of both the books.

The special value of Mr. Flexner's book is in its absolute freedom from bias. He is known as a student of education, and it is because of his valuable work in that subject that he was chosen by the New York Bureau of Social Hygiene to investigate this very complicated problem. His business has been to make a full and impartial inquiry into the subject, and he devoted two years to making his observations and forming his conclusions.

One cannot help feeling with what joy Mrs. Butler would have welcomed these two books—Flexner's with its scientific confirmation of all she stood for; Mrs. Creighton's with its broad, spiritual, hopeful outlook. Never again in any part of the Western world can Regulation and all the horrors it entails gain any firm foothold. Regulation is shown to have failed on all counts. First, it was said by its supporters to be necessary for the maintenance of public decency and order. Flexner clearly shows that from this point of view it is a factor that need not be taken into consideration, because prostitution is equally prominent in Berlin and London, one a regulated and the other a non-regulated city; and the cities where the least evidence of this underlying sore of our civilisation is to be found are without Regulation.

When it proved to be a failure from the point of view of public order, more and more emphasis was laid on its sanitary efficacy; to realise to the full how deplorably it has failed in this direction, Mr. Flexner's chapters on Regulation and Disease must be read through. They are not pleasant reading, and yet one is filled with hopefulness and courage at the end, for the writer is far-seeing and very enlightened, and a convinced and ardent Suffragist. There are many intelligent and scientific people who believe that this subject of venereal disease can be dealt with without bringing in the ethical factor at all. Those people should read and ponder these chapters to see how futile and impossible is their position. Mr. Flexner, both here and in other parts of his book, refers to the fact that Continental Europe

"traditionally condones incontinence on the part of the male sex. No single cause accounts for this phenomenon; but certainly among the most important factors is not only the existence of a powerful instinct in man, but also the extent to which its indulgence is facilitated by the low social status of woman. This attitude was incorporated in, not originally due to, regulatory systems of dealing with prostitution. The continental attitude towards prostitution . . . is really the result of an indulgent attitude towards the male sex, on the one hand, and a disregard of woman's dignity, on the other. . . . The prominence thus given to immorality operates psychologically as an incitement to it. . . . Nothing is more certain in the domain of effort and ethics than that good conduct is largely the response of the individual to the expectation of society: men 'can because they think they can.'"

Nothing is more significant of the demoralising effect of regulation in diminishing male self-control than the fact that the knowledge that self-control on the part of men is both possible and wholesome proceeds along the same lines as the demand for the abolition of regulation, as well as for the elevation in the status of women, invariably found with this movement. People in general who write and talk about this and allied subjects rarely dwell on the prostitutes' point of view. Mr. Flexner shows us how they have "completely penetrated the sanitary insincerity of regulation":—

"They know that they are not regulated simply because they are prostitutes—not even because they are diseased prostitutes. Too many mere prostitutes are never touched; the diseased prostitute is too rarely apprehended just on that account. A woman is inscribed because, being a prostitute, with or without disease, she has incurred—justly enough, doubtless, as a rule—the suspicion and displeasure of the police."

The real ultimate absurdity of regulation is, of course, that it deals with only one half of the problem, *viz.*, the women, while completely ignoring the other half, the men. Prostitution can never be dealt with, either from the point of view of logic or justice, till both parties are regarded as equally responsible. It is as if we attempted to stamp out tuberculosis by restricting treatment and detention to male adult sufferers, whilst ignoring entirely the women and children. Society may make artificial regulation, but nature acts and distributes disease impartially.

In the chapter on The Real Inwardness of Regulation, Mr. Flexner thus sums up :—

"The final and weightiest objection to regulation is, not that it fails as hygiene . . . not that it is unnecessary as a police measure, but that it obstructs and confounds the proper attitude of society towards all social evils, of which prostitution is one. Men can refrain; the state must do nothing to make indulgence easier. Women must be saved, if possible; rescued if preventive measures have come too feebly or too late. These sentences sum up the simple and entire duty of the state. Society must presume that the human spark has not been utterly quenched in the wrecked soul—a fact that is not without support from experience. As against all this, inscription entices the girl, offering her a *quid pro quo* if she crosses the line. Thus it snaps the last weak thread that ties her to decent occupation or other associations. In its ultimate effect, therefore, it is a compact with vice, whatever the language employed. It may not intend to encourage vice, but by conceding to vice a privileged position, it discourages all effort to prevent or uproot it."

The chapters which deal with abolition should quiet the fears of those who imagine that if the regulation system were entirely swept away we should be overwhelmed with immorality and disease. Abolition means abolition of regulation, not of prostitution, and "a woman who prostitutes herself for money is, in abolition communities, in the eye of the law in precisely the situation of the man whom she has gratified: if the pair give no offence, the State takes no cognisance of the act."

How shall we mend these things? Here Mrs. Creighton's book is most helpful. She shows how "the Women's Movement in its deepest sense is a movement to purify society by giving women their due place in society." She very wisely dwells on a point of view which has not, perhaps, received sufficient attention—the difference of sex from the very earliest infancy. The little girl is encouraged to be a coquette. People are fond of pointing to the little girl's preference for the opposite sex. Little boys are encouraged to be domineering and self-assertive, because it is thought to be manly. "Only a girl" from birth has been a term of disparagement. The latest outcome of this attitude is the boys refusing to go to Hyde Park to be reviewed on Empire Day if the girls went too; they thought is savoured too much of the nursery! That spirit brings in its train all that these two books describe, and it is the replacing of that spirit by a real true spirit of chivalry, and not a hideously sham one, that we Suffragists and firm believers in the Women's Movement are determined to see an accomplished fact.

Formerly women were kept in ignorance of all these things, and to appear to have any knowledge of them would be regarded as indecent. But now that ignorance is being swept away, and the conspiracy of silence is broken, we must take our part, according to knowledge, in lifting up women to a higher status, by education, religion, science, sanitation, and by a far-reaching statesmanship. We know that civilisation "has stripped for a life-and-death wrestle with tuberculosis, alcohol, and other plagues":—

"It is on the verge of a similar struggle with the crasser forms of commercialised vice. Sooner or later, it must fling down the gauntlet to the whole horrible thing. This will be the real contest—a contest that will tax the courage, the self-denial, the faith, the resources of humanity to their uttermost."

JANE WALKER.

Women's Suffrage in Australia.

By C. R. Wilton (of *The Adelaide Advertiser*).

The recent protest of the Australian Women's National League against the Suffragette outrages in England and the insults offered to the King by Suffragettes, will perhaps render opportune a brief outline of the history of the Adult Suffrage Movement in the Commonwealth. "One adult, one vote" is now the settled political policy in Federal Australia, although the property qualification is still in existence in some of the States, so far as the Legislative Councils are concerned. South Australia began her Constitutional history in 1857 with the principle of "one man, one vote" for the House of Assembly, and a small property qualification for the Legislative Councils, but with no plural voting even for that Chamber. The other Australian States, as a rule, were less advanced; for although manhood suffrage was the rule plural voting was also general, and the remark of Senator Dobson on the subject, at the Federal Convention of 1897, will long be remembered, namely, that in Tasmania each elector had "as many votes as he deserved."

The first Federal Parliament (1901) was elected on the basis of the most popular vote in each State, and whereas in South Australia and New South Wales every adult voted both for Senators and Representatives, in Tasmania "every elector had as many votes as he deserved." One of the earliest Acts of the Commonwealth Parliament was to make matters uniform, and now in all six States every natural born or naturalised British subject over twenty-one years of age is entitled to vote for either branch of the Legislature, so that every citizen is in the position of being adequately represented in the Federal Parliament.

A "counsel of perfection" has been suggested, but so far has not advanced to the domain of practical politics. That is that every individual citizen should have a vote, no matter what the age or sex. The father of a family would, under such a scheme, have a vote for himself and each of his sons until the age of twenty-one was attained, when each son would receive the franchise himself, and similarly the mother would vote on behalf of each daughter. Widowers or widows would concentrate the votes of all the members of the family, whatever the sex. In this way the poor man or woman would become politically important in proportion to the size of the family, and this would not only ensure attention from legislators, but would also have an influence, no doubt, on the increase of the birth rate—a very necessary consideration in new countries.

As a broad generalisation it may be stated that, although the fight for the enfranchisement of women necessitated a long and arduous campaign in Australia, it was never marred by a single outrage on the part of the women. Everything was done "decently and in order." The women who were most prominent in their advocacy of the reform showed by their patience, their intelligence, and their persistency, that they were entitled to the vote. Like the importunate widow whose case was brought before the unjust judge of the scripture, they wore down opposition and triumphed as the result of their persuasive powers and the inherent strength of their cause. The agitation had its origin in South Australia where the first proposal made by Dr. Sterling, M.P. (now Professor Sterling, F.R.S., of Adelaide University), was to give the vote for the Legislative Council to unmarried women over twenty-one years of age who possessed the necessary property qualification. Women owning property or renting houses had already the vote, as ratepayers, for Municipalities and district Councils, and his argument was that they should be given equal rights in regard to parliamentary elections, while he urged that married women should be excluded, as their husbands would represent them. There were two objections advanced to this scheme. The first was that property was sufficiently protected under the existing constitution. The next was that married women should not by reason of their marriage be placed at a political disadvantage as compared with their "bachelor" sisters. These objections, and the defeat of Dr. Sterling at the general election of 1887, gave this scheme its quietus.

The next champion of Women's Suffrage was the late Mr. Robert Caldwell, M.P., who proposed to give the vote to "females with property." The phrase was much objected to owing to the use of the word "female," some caustic critics declaring that a cow with a bell round her neck would come within the designation. However, a much more potent objection was that under Mr. Caldwell's Bill only well-to-do women would be enfranchised, and that as a result the Legislative Council (the property chamber) would be strengthened as against the popular Chamber, the House of Assembly.

While this controversy was raging New Zealand stepped in, and, going the whole distance, gave the parliamentary vote to women on the same basis as that enjoyed by men. Thus the island Dominion gained such distinction as belonged to the pioneering of this reform. Heartened by the example of New Zealand, the Democratic party in South Australia, one of the leaders of which was Sir John Cockburn (afterwards Premier and Agent-General, who is now resident in London), introduced a Bill having for its object the enfranchisement of women in South Australia on the same conditions as men, that is, giving the vote to adults for the House of Assembly and to women possessed of the stipulated amount of property for the Legislative Council. The Labour Members of Parliament objected to the latter concession as they were opposed to the property qualification altogether, but rather than lose the measure entirely they voted for it on the third reading and the Bill was ultimately passed. The alteration of the Constitution required an absolute majority of the House of Assembly, and it was only possible to get the exact number of votes. In the Legislative Council, strange to say, the Bill was put through with greater ease, and so South Australia had the honour of being the first State in the Commonwealth to give women the parliamentary franchise New South Wales, however, followed close upon her heels and the Federal Parliament, as previously stated, some years afterwards made the system of adult Suffrage universal so far as the Commonwealth was concerned.

There were some interesting episodes connected with the passage of the Women's Suffrage Bill through the South Australian Assembly. The second reading, for instance, was hung up for several weeks because of the absence of a supporter, for without him the requisite "absolute majority" could not be obtained. The third reading was nearly lost because the opponents of the measure forced a snap division when one of the supporters had, as it was believed, left the House for his home, but a friend entering the building detained him for a few moments in conversation on the front steps, and so he heard the divisioin bells ringing and returned in time to record his vote. During all these vicissitudes the women who were fighting for justice to their sex, carried out their campaign with the utmost moderation and common sense, and under the most irritating rebuffs never once passed beyond the limits of decorous behaviour, although at times their comments on the action of their antagonists were bitingly severe.

The importance of Women's Suffrage in Australia is proved by the fact that the population of the Commonwealth at the last Census (April, 1911) was 2,313,035 males and 2,141,970 females, while at the same date there were in Victoria 659,960 females and only 655,591 males. In several of the constituencies of the Federal Parliament at the last general election there were more women than men voters, and the proportion of women who went to the poll was practically the same as that of the men. Although a very large proportion of the women in Australia showed no particular desire to obtain the parliamentary franchise and a goodly number were strongly adverse to the agitation for its concession, now that it has been granted they take their responsibilities seriously, and they show an enlightened interest in parliamentary affairs.

It would be difficult to say just how their vote has influenced results, but there is no doubt that their votes have been cast on the side of social purity and in favour of industrial reform, while the temperance cause has also gained greatly by their help. The interests of women and children, too, have been additionally safeguarded. In purely party matters the women as a rule vote in the same way as their men folk, and certainly no domestic disagreements have been caused in Australia by the establishment of Adult Suffrage.

WOMEN POLICE.

On Wednesday, July 17th, Mr. Ellis Griffith, on behalf of the Home Office, received deputations from the National Vigilance Association, which included representatives of several other societies, and the Criminal Law Amendment Committee to press for the appointment of police women.

Mr. Archibald Allen, who spoke for the Vigilance Association, brought forward in an admirable speech the arguments for women police with which readers of The Common Cause are no doubt familiar. Mrs. Gow also spoke, from the point of view of the rescue worker. Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck then introduced the Criminal Law Amendment Committee deputation, for whom Mrs. Bigland spoke. She described the remarkable amount of support received by the proposal since it was first brought forward for public discussion by her Committee in June, 1913, and spoke of the work of police women in other countries. In emphasising the demand, unanimously supported by all members of the deputations, for full official powers and recognition for women officials, she mentioned that one woman police official recently appointed in this country is paid £20 a year, and added "this cannot be called a salary, it is an honorarium to a voluntary worker."

Mr. Ellis Griffith, in replying, said that on one point he was in entire agreement with Mrs. Bigland, that of the hardship inflicted upon girls who are alone in court in those cases which are heard in camera. But from his subsequent remarks it seemed evident that he preferred that women should "co-operate with and assist" the men police, rather than shared the desire of the deputation that women should possess powers of their own and have equal status with men. On this point the deputation was so unanimous that Mr. Ellis Griffith, in the mutual exchange of compliments, referred to it as more of a demonstration than a deputation.

The most interesting and instructive part of the proceedings was the statement made in answer to questions that at present no women officials have the power of arrest, and that the Home Office is itself not certain if the appointment of women police with full powers would be legal. Mr. Ellis Griffith said that perhaps the best opinion inclined to the side that it would need legislation; "and legislation," he said, "is difficult."

It will therefore be seen that in the present state of "co-operation" the official position, power, and salary is on the side of the men, and that the women-assistants' work is necessarily very limited.

K. Williams.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COMBATING VENEREAL DISEASE.

As a result of a number of private conferences presided over by Sir Thomas Barlow, it has been decided to form a National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases. The Council will be composed of representatives of the medical profession and the general public, but the list of names has not yet been made public. It is to be hoped that women will be adequately represented both among the medical and lay members.

HOW SOME OF US LIVE.

DANGERS TO WHICH POTTERY WORKERS ARE EXPOSED.

BY OUR COMMISSIONER.

About fifteen years ago the reports of the Labour Commission and the Committee on Dangerous Trades had dealt with plumbism, and there followed an agitation which led to some distress of the public mind. The public conscience became considerably agitated about the effects of lead-poisoning in the Potteries.

The revelations were appalling. The effects, it was found, might stop at the "blue line" on the gums—an early danger-signal—or they might go on through continual and prolonged suffering to paralysis or even death. There might be an occasional or frequent and violent attacks of colic, a peculiar paralysis of the hands and arms, or even sometimes serious brain disturbance and blindness. I am personally acquainted with people afflicted with each of the foregoing symptoms, and during the last decade have known many others who have lost their lives prematurely as a result of lead-poisoning, contracted in the years before very much was done to stop it.

Following the disclosures to which reference has just been made, the Government issued special rules for the protection of pottery workers in contact with lead. The result was fewer cases, but it later became clear that, despite what had been done to protect the worker, lead remains a dangerous substance to handle, and the Government appointed a Departmental Committee. Their report was uncompromising. They described the danger as being "a fact beyond dispute." They made recommendations with a view to lessening the danger. The committee contained only one woman, Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, and it is worthy of note that she was the only member who had the courage to recommend the abolition of the use of lead, as the only absolutely safe guarantee of immunity from danger. As a result of the greater precautions enforced by the law, the cases of poisoning have of course become less; but there remain a lamentable number even yet. Only those who place a low value on human life and its precarious attributes of health and bodily well-being can contemplate with complacency the fact that in 1909, the year after the Departmental Committee's appointment, and the lowest on record, the certified cases were 58, and that the number has since shown an upward tendency. The certified cases are, of course, definite and indisputable, but the Committee found that, "In addition to the actual tabulated cases of plumbism, the evidence showed that the general health of many operatives is impaired, and that the danger to the workers . . . whether from direct poisoning or from general deterioration of health, is very real." (p. 40). The effects are sometimes very quickly felt, and a young girl may fall a victim after only a few weeks' contact. On the other hand, men and women may be at work years without any apparent detriment. It is the fond hope and belief of some people that, as a result of the precautions *now* enforced by law, only carelessness on the part of the worker can account for the existence of lead-poisoning. The hope is a delusion, and the belief unsupportable by facts; there is evidence to the contrary obtainable, and though a worker undoubtedly lessens the risks by the rigid observance of extreme care, she by no means renders herself immune thereby.

One of the saddest features of the danger is its partiality for youthful victims. A girl gets a job "in the lead," and in a few months—I have known it to happen in a few weeks—there may be frequent pains in the head, attacks of vomiting, and pains in the stomach. There may be a sweet taste in the mouth, an overwhelming drowsiness, and an affection of the wrists which may lead to a condition known as "wrist-drop." All these symptoms may be present, or only some of them.

Another feature is the length of time the illness lasts. There often appears to be partial recovery, and hopes are high that a speedy restoration to health is at hand. Then there may be, and often is, a relapse, and this may go on for months, or even years. "I'm so tired of being ill," a woman will say, "one day thinking you're better, and the next day as bad as ever." It is, moreover, comparatively rare to find a case of complete recovery, and cases which were originally affected some years ago are still in an unsatisfactory condition of health. Miss Sadler, one of H.M. Factory Inspectors, tried to follow the subsequent history for a time of women and girls for whom the diagnosis of lead-poisoning had been confirmed. She had difficulty in doing this, because the Potteries people are fond of "flitting," and it is a task needing time and some local knowledge to keep trace of them; but out of forty cases diagnosed, she found twenty-four who, during the last months of a year, were still suffering, and in receipt of compensation. Miss Sadler points out (Chief Inspector's Report for 1911) that the comparatively large number of young people affected is evidence that the upward tendency of the past few years is not due to the accumulated effects of past years, before the Special Rules came into force.

One significant circumstance, also noted by H.M. Inspector, is the way in which the girls and women (also men) struggle to keep at work after they have begun to feel ill. The uninitiated may perhaps ask why, since a case certified to be lead-poisoning is now due for compensation. Surely, it would be better to leave work and to try to get well, than to work on in an unfit state?

The fact that so many people undoubtedly do struggle on at work is surely eloquent of the conditions of their lives. Only the other day I encountered a case (quite common and typical) of a woman, a widow, who knows she is ill, and that eventually she must break down, but whose determination to put off that day to its last extremity is unshakable. Her wage is 8s. per week, her compensation would be 4s., and this might now be made up to 7s. 6d. by "Lloyd George"—or sick benefit, so that this individual woman would not be very much worse off. "But I'm nearly fifty," she said, "and even if I got better I might not get taken on again."

Then there is always the necessity of becoming certified, not as easy as it would appear, for, though some symptoms of lead-poisoning are distinctive enough to ensure speedy certification, other symptoms, especially in the early stages, are so much like other ailments that there is sometimes doubt and difficulty. In such cases, or even before any decided affection is apparent, it is possible for the certifying surgeon to suspend from employment without certifying lead; so that it becomes a matter of temptation to keep the symptoms in the background as much as possible, and to answer his questions at the monthly examinations with the distinct object of misleading him.

If the workers were sure of an income, they would, of course, be quite ready to leave work the moment they feel ill; it is not the fascination of their work which chains them to it, but the grim pressure of necessity. Furthermore, even though they were sure of easy and immediate certification, or, in the case of non-certification, of obtaining sickness benefit under the Insurance Act, the prospect is not particularly alluring. Full wages, at the rates quoted in my last article, do not enable them to live in luxury, but half-wages, or sickness benefit may mean a drop to actual privation. The latter has limits set upon the length of time it may be granted, and the former is not large enough to help effectively at a time when extra help is needed.

One of the ironies of sickness incurred from industrial disease, as well as of most other forms of sickness to which the working classes are subject—and nearly all of which have their origin in poverty—is the frequency with which the doctor orders nourishment. Food which is unobtainable on the full wage of 12s.—or less—is a mockery on the half-wage of 6s.—or less. Nor may we comfort ourselves with the thought that these women and girls are not dependent on their own earnings, and can therefore get family help at a time of need such as this. Some of them do get help from relatives, comparatively as poor as themselves, but many are themselves a family prop, and often cessation of earning on their part means not only privation for themselves, but for others. "I should have stopped sooner," a girl will say, "but father's ill, and there's only my brother and me bringing money into the house."

Or it may be a married woman who says, in answer to an inquiry as to whether she is perhaps a widow: "I'm as good as one—he's left me"; or, "he's not doing much—18s. when it's fine (at labouring), and less when it's "like this." (It is often "like this"—raining). Often a woman is the sole support of herself and others (I have for years been trying to solve the mystery as to how she does it on her wage); or a girl has nothing on which to keep herself except her half-wage compensation.

Another of H.M. Inspectors, Miss Lovibond, says: "Extreme poverty was the cause of workers continuing at their work, in spite of warning symptoms, in eleven cases out of seventeen; in six of these, the workers had dependents, in five the equally hopeless conditions of women being quite alone, without a home, obtained." In other words, the desperate need of earning something puts quite into shadow the dread alternative of incurring a possibly long and painful illness!

(Next article: Further Dangers and Effects, and Home-life in the Potteries.)

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
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MISS C. E. MARSHALL (Parliamentary).
MISS EMILY M. LEAF (Press).
MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
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Secretary:
MISS CROOKENDEN.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria

Parliamentary Department.

May I, through THE COMMON CAUSE, thank those societies which have sent in returns in answer to the circular issued from the Parliamentary Department on July 3rd; and may I at the same time ask those societies which have not yet replied to do so as soon as possible? It is important that all answers should be sent in before the session ends next month.

I hope the Secretaries of our 500 societies will accept this acknowledgment of the returns received instead of a personal letter in each case.

C. E. MARSHALL (Hon. Parliamentary Secretary.)

Sunday in Hyde Park.

Neither rain nor other attractions were able to compete successfully with the National Union speakers in the Park last Sunday, and those members of the audience who were drawn away by the excitement of police activities elsewhere very speedily returned to the red, white, and green flag. Many "Friends'" cards were signed, and two members of the audience who had not quite made up their minds on the subject of Women's Suffrage, but who had shown the keenest interest in the speeches, announced their intention of coming again next Sunday, when they would in all probability enrol themselves.

Will Suffragists spending Sunday in London remember that their help will be warmly welcomed at these meetings. A post card sent to the N.U. Office will bring them full particulars.

Report of the Literature Department.

Members who are leaving home for the holidays are reminded that the travelling season is an excellent opportunity for propaganda, and that a few pamphlets and leaflets take very little room in one's luggage, and may do much good to the Women's Suffrage cause if carefully distributed. No member of the National Union should travel without Mrs. Fawcett's short History of the Women's Suffrage Movement, price 6d. net, to lend to inquiring friends. For an admirable review of the whole subject, Lord Lytton's speech in the House of Lords (A.104), price 3d., cannot be bettered, while in "*The Only Way*" (A.102), price 1d., the case for a Government measure is forcibly put forward. Fru Anker's interesting pamphlet, "*Women's Suffrage in Norway*" (A.95), price 2d., now in its second edition, is a most readable account of women's votes in working, while '*An Impartial Inquiry: Answers from America*," published by the C. & U.W.F.A., price 1d., and Miss Macmillan's "*Facts versus Fancies*" (A.99), price 4d., deal with the effects of Women's Suffrage in America. The Bishop of London's fine speech in the House of Lords, published by the C. & U.W.F.A., price 1d., should also be included in the list, and leaflets suitable for different districts can be supplied in small quantities as well as large, for those who are willing to combine holiday making with a little useful propaganda.

EVELYN M. L. ATKINSON.

Treasurer's Notes.

Sometimes, to our surprise, we still meet with persons so secluded in their own easy and comfortable surroundings that they remain unaware of the stress with which existence presses on the great majority of women, and of the hard struggle in which most of them are to-day engaged. Such persons will ask us vaguely :"Is the suffrage movement making much progress in the country just now?" and any statement of the simple facts connected with our movement comes to them almost as a revelation. They are ignorant of the growing sympathy with women's demand for the vote, and have no conception of the magnitude of the effort that is being made to obtain it. They are surprised, for instance, to be told of the cheering facts that each single day new members join the National Union, and that every month new societies are being formed.

Even Anti-suffrage meetings help our progress, for it is constantly our experience that the futile arguments of the antis only enable any thoughtful and broad-minded women who hear them to realise more easily the lofty meaning and inspiring

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message of the women's suffrage movement. I quote as an illustration the following sentence from a kind and gracious letter which accompanied a subscription we have just recently received: "It may interest you to know that I have for some time been intending to join the Union, and was finally decided to delay no longer by listening to the speakers at an Anti-suffrage meeting this evening."

When new members not only join a local society, but also send a subscription for the work at headquarters, then it is particularly gratifying. For the benefit of those who have recently joined our ranks, we hope, when space permits, to enumerate a few of the many branches of our work for which funds are continuously needed, and it will then readily be seen that our increased progress has been largely the direct outcome of the increased financial support which the public give us. On the other hand, this very progress opens up fresh opportunities for extending our movement, and for strengthening the political force of the Union, and for this again we need still larger sums of money. It is a simple and direct sequence which is rapidly leading us to success.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1913	7,775	3	0
Received July 6th to 20th:—			

Subscriptions.

A. O. M.	1	0	0
Mrs. G. H. Lomas		1	0
Lady Horsley	5	5	0
Miss K. G. Smith (1914 & 1915)		4	0
Mrs. G. A. Burt		15	0
Dr. Alice Sanderson		5	0
Miss M. E. Sanderson		5	0
Countess Cairns	1	1	0
Miss Ursula Hodgson		2	0
Miss Nancy Godwin		5	0
Miss Helena Frank		5	0
Mrs. C. H. Hopkins		2	0
Mrs. Dryhurst	2	2	0
Mrs. Theodore Williams		10	0
Mrs. O'Kinealy		2	6
Mr. H. M. Atkinson		2	6
Miss E. M. Cooke		2	6
Miss R. Cooke		2	6
Rev. E. ahd Mrs. Giles	3	0	0
Mrs. F. C. Tubbs	2	2	0
C. P. F.		2	6
Mrs. McCarthy		5	0
Mrs. Grieg		5	0
Miss E. Guertler		2	6
Miss Isa R. H. Watson		1	0
Mrs. Morse		5	0
Mr. Walter Heath		10	6
Miss B. A. Clough	25	0	0
Miss Margaret E. Carey		2	0
Miss A. Maude Royden	1	1	0
Mrs. G. Stuart Robertson	1	1	0

Donations.

King's Sutton W.S.S. (Thank-offering for Mrs. Harley's visit)	1	1	0
Sale of Jewellery	3	10	6
Mrs. Vernon Hudson		5	0
Mrs. Aubrey Dowson (for Motor-'bus advertisement)	1	0	0
Miss Helena Frank (for Motor-'bus advertisement)	5	0	0
Mrs. Dryhurst (for Motor-'bus advertisement)	1	1	0
Mrs. C. H. Hopkins		2	0
Miss A. Allen-Brown (Educational campaign)		10	0
Miss L. Tottenham (Educational campaign)		5	6
Mr. Wm. Barlow, F.R.S. (Educational campaign)		10	0
Mrs. Wm. Barlow (Educational campaign)		10	0

Women's Suffrage Mandate Fund

Mrs. Carey		10	0
Redhill, Reigate and District W.S.S.	3	0	0
Mrs. B. V. Edwards	5	0	0
Miss Bertha Newcombe	5	0	0
Miss M. Michaelis		5	0

Subscriptions to Information Bureau.

Miss Madeline Glasier	1	1	0

Affiliation Fees.

Windsor and Eton W.S.S. (Entrance fee)		7	0
Pontypool W.S.S.		10	9
Forfar W.S.S. (Entrance fee)		4	9
Settle W.S.S. (Entrance fee)		3	3
Campden W.S.S. (Entrance fee)		3	9
Scalby W.S.S. (additional)		3	0
Weymouth W.S.S. (Entrance fee)		8	0
Romford and District W.S.S. (Entrance fee)		2	6
King's Lynn W.S.S.		11	0
Rochdale W.S.S.	1	14	9
	£7,854	12	3

THE NEW LITTLE POSTERS.

The initial expense of printing these new posters has been borne by two members of the Active Service League, who are particularly keen about out-door COMMON CAUSE selling, as they believe that they will prove a great help to sellers all over the country. And it is hoped that the Societies throughout the Union will respond by sending orders to the manager.

The posters are 17 ins. by 14 ins., printed in red and green on linen. Price 2d. each, and the lettering is as follows: THE COMMON CAUSE: THE LAW-ABIDING SUFFRAGISTS' PAPER.

COMMON CAUSE SELLERS.

Will any members of the N.U. who can do some C.C. selling in London during the next few weeks please send their names to Miss Gosse, L.S.W.S., 58, Victoria Street, S.W.? And will regular sellers please let her know when they are going for their holidays so that she can try to keep their pitches going whilst they are away?

WOMEN OCCUPIERS AND THE MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE.

All women who believe that they are qualified to become electors to any of the local authorities, should write to the Women's Local Government Society, 19, Tothill-street, Westminster, S.W., for the Society's leaflet on "Registration in England and Wales." With the aid of this leaflet, it can be easily seen whether they are entitled to be placed on the Occupiers' List. The period of qualification is one year, namely, twelve months immediately preceding July 15th in any year. The Occupiers' List for the coming year are placed on public buildings on August 1st, and all new claims must be sent in by noon on August 20th

Active Service League

OXON, BERKS & BUCKS FEDERATION

A CYCLING TOUR

is being arranged as follows—

BEDFORD DISTRICT	- -	Aug. 10th—12th
WOBURN SANDS	- -	" 12th—14th
DUNSTABLE	- -	" 14th—17th
LUTON	- -	" 17th—18th
WATFORD	- -	" 18th—21st
S. BUCKS	- -	" 21st—25th
MAIDENHEAD	- -	" 25th—28th
S. BERKS	- -	Aug. 28th—Sept. 1st
N. BERKS	- -	Sept. 1st—5th

Please join us, at any point, if only for a day.

Speakers are greatly needed. Apply for full information to Miss C. C. LYON (Section Leader), Ashcroft, Prestwood, Gt. Missenden, Bucks.

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Why We Want the Vote. Miss Kate Raleigh.
Miss Browne's Friend (Serial Story).
Miss F. M. Mayer.
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News from the Societies and Federations.

London Society.

QUARTERLY COUNCIL.—The Quarterly Council of the London Society met at Denison House on July 16th at 6.9 p.m. Miss Helen Ward was in the chair and there was a good attendance of representatives from branches. The meeting began by recording its deep sorrow for the irreparable loss which the Society and the whole Women's Suffrage movement had recently sustained in the death of Mrs. Gimingham. Resolutions dealing with many varied aspects of our work were then discussed, and excellent speeches made, from many different points of view. The Council adopted standing orders, passed several recommendations to the Executive Committee, and showed warm interest in some special suggestions for future work.

CHISWICK AND BEDFORD PARK.—On July 9th, a garden meeting was held at 24, Blandford Road, Bedford Park, by the kind permission of Dr. and Mrs. Gans, the latter being unfortunately unable to be present owing to the illness of her little son. Her sister, Miss Spiers, kindly acted as hostess. About seventy people were present. Chair, Mrs. Dale. The speakers were Mrs. Rogers and Miss Ansell (of the Jewish League), whose short speeches evoked much interest. Miss Francesa Woolf, accompanied by her sister, gave us a delightful 'cello solo. Miss Inez Bensusan entertained us immensely by an excruciatingly funny "Anti" speech. Miss Davies most kindly recited Tennyson's "Victim." A very hearty vote of thanks was passed to Dr. and Mrs. Gans for their hospitality. Five "Friends" were enrolled.

An open-air meeting was held on Turnham Green on July 13th. Miss Dawson was the speaker, and was attentively listened to by a large crowd. Eight "Friends" were enrolled.

CLAPHAM.—On Sunday evening, July 5th, the Clapham I.L.P. held their weekly meeting on Clapham Common, and invited a Suffrage speaker to address the crowd. Mrs. Harford Worlock spoke to a large and interested audience, in spite of the wet weather, and the chair was taken by Mr. J. Smith, who made a most earnest speech on the woman's question. At the close of the meeting eighteen "Friends" were enrolled. The speaker was asked to address two other meetings in September.

DEPTFORD.—On July 17th, an open-air meeting was held at Brockley Road, when Miss Agnes Dawson and Miss Goddard spoke. Nine "Friends" joined, and eleven copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

EALING.—On July 8th, an open-air meeting was held at the corner of St. James's Avenue and Uxbridge Road, West Ealing. Chair, Miss Chick. The speaker, Miss Dawson, held the crowd well while she explained labour laws as applied to women. The audience, largely composed of men, were most sympathetic. Fifteen "Friends" were enrolled.

On July 9th a garden meeting was held at "Ingleside," Edge Hill Road, by the kind invitation of Mrs. McBride. Chair, Miss Binder. Speakers, Mrs. Rawlings and Miss Eileen Hughes.

EPSOM.—The annual meeting was held (by kind permission of Mrs. Arnould) at 1, Queen Anne's Villas, Worple Road, Epsom. There was a good attendance of members and some "Friends." The President (Mrs. Homan) was in the chair, and announced Mrs. Garrido's resignation through illness, after over three years' able work as Hon. Secretary. A vote of thanks and sympathy with Mrs. Garrido was carried unanimously. After the usual business, an excellent and inspiring speech was given by Miss Martineau (Esher), who laid special stress on the need for emphasising to young people the many privileges won for them in the last fifty years, and enlisting their services.

N. HACKNEY.—A garden party was held at 73, Lordship Road, by kind permission of Mrs. Cook, on July 9th, when over 200 were present. Miss Muriel Matters gave an excellent speech, and the resolution was carried *nem. con.*

HAMPTON'S BRANCH.—A successful drawing-room meeting was held on July 2nd, at Greville, Bushey Park Gardens, by kind permission of Mrs. Baker. Speaker, Miss R. Smith. Six members were enrolled, and eight copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold. In the evening Mrs. Jerrold kindly held a meeting for "Friends," at which two members and four "Friends" were enrolled.

HIGHGATE AND N. ST. PANCRAS.—A very successful evening meeting was held, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Simmons, at Warwick House, Wood Lane, on July 7th. The chair was taken by the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, and a convincing address was given by Miss Clementina Black, on "Women Earners and the Vote." Dr. Arthur Todd, Professor of Sociology at Pittsburg University, gave personal testimony to the good effect of the women's vote in California and Illinois. Several questions were asked, and five new members have since joined. An excellent report of Miss Black's address appeared in the *North Middlesex Chronicle*.

EAST ISLINGTON.—The first open-air meeting was held on July 9th, at the corner of Riversdale and Blackstock Roads, and was addressed by Mr. C. H. Few and Mrs. Richardson. A few copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and some "Friends" joined. The audience was large and friendly, consisting mostly of men.

N. ISLINGTON.—A garden party, given by Mrs. Gorham, on July 11th, was very successful. Miss Ransom spoke in a clear and convincing way. Mrs. Hadrill presided, and after tea played, and Mrs. Tribe sang delightfully. Two new members joined, and at least four more are certain. Mrs. Gorham has promised the garden for next year.

KENNINGTON.—On July 10th, a successful open-air meeting was held outside the Tate Library, South Lambeth Road, addressed by Miss Philippa Strachey and Miss Dorothy Brown. The resolution was passed with only one dissentient. Thirteen "Friends" enrolled.

MUSWELL HILL.—The first of a series of open-air meetings was held at the Exchange, on the 27th ult. The speakers were Miss Stoehr and Mr. Adams. In the crowd there was a considerable number whose intention was to break up the meeting, but, in spite of that, Miss Stoehr was successful in silencing interrupters, and obtained a very good hearing. Mr. Adams, however, was not quite so successful, although he secured a larger audience. The main difficulty in Muswell Hill, as elsewhere, appears to be the inability of the people to realise that the majority of Suffragists do not uphold violence.

A most successful meeting was held at the Exchange on Saturday evening, the 11th inst., when the speakers were Miss Fielden and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell. Fitting reference was made to the loss that the Branch has sustained in the death of Mr. Fox, who was one of its most enthusiastic and helpful members. Mr. Mitchell then dealt with the present position of the movement, and the effect of the vote on wages. Miss Fielden spoke on the economic position of women, and showed the fallacy of the physical force argument. Fifteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and three "Friends'" cards were signed.

WEST NEWINGTON.—On July 3rd, Miss Agnes Dawson and Miss Philippa Fawcett addressed an open-air meeting, when the resolution demanding a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women was carried with only two dissentients. Twenty-three "Friends" were made.

On July 17th, Miss Gloyn and Miss Walshe addressed an open-air meeting at the corner of Trinity Street and Borough High Street, when fifteen "Friends" were enrolled and eleven copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

POPLAR.—On July 2nd, by kind permission of Miss Mackay, a meeting for "Friends" was held at the Presbyterian Settlement, East India Dock Road. The chair was taken by Miss M. Green, and Miss Waugh gave a most interesting address. As the result of an appeal made by the speaker, three members of the audience offered their services as COMMON CAUSE sellers in East London. The resolution was carried *nem. con.*

RICHMOND.—An excellent open-air meeting was held on July 7th, when three new members joined, eight "Friends" were made, and fourteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold. Mr. Malcolm Mitchell's spirited speech made a great impression on the audience, and he was followed by Mrs. Swanwick and Miss Fawcett. Much interest was shown, and many questions asked, all of which were cleverly and satisfactorily answered.

E. ST. PANCRAS.—On July 6th, an open-air meeting was held, at which Miss Hamilton, Miss Fawcett, and Miss Easther were the speakers. One member joined, and thirteen "Friends" were enrolled.

An open-air meeting was held on July 13th, at the corner of Coburg Street and Hampstead Road, when the speakers were Miss I. O. Ford and Miss Stoehr. Eighteen "Friends" were enrolled.

WEST SOUTHWARK.—On July 7th, an open-air meeting was held at the corner of Borough Road and St. George's Circus, when Miss Ruth Young and Miss Gloyn addressed a large meeting, and thirty-three "Friends" were enrolled.

SUTTON.—On July 2nd a meeting was held at "Hatchford," Manor Park Road, Sutton, by the invitation of Mrs. Martin. A most interesting address was given by Mrs. Savory, at the conclusion of which some new members joined.

WALWORTH.—On June 30th an open-air meeting was held at Liverpool Street and Walworth Road corner, when Miss I. O. Ford and Dr. Drysdale addressed the meeting, Miss Deverell taking the chair. The resolution was passed *nem. con.* Forty "Friends" were enrolled.

On July 14th Miss Green, Miss Deverell, and Miss D. Orton addressed an open-air meeting at Liverpool Street. Twenty "Friends" were enrolled.

WIMBLEDON.—On July 11th, a garden meeting was held at "Cranleigh," 22, Dorset Road, Merton Park, by kind invitation of Mrs. G. W. Osborn Howe. Councillor Dr. Beatrice McGregor was in the chair, and a much appreciated address was given by Mrs. I. O. Ford. Several questions were asked, and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Mallett, and seconded by Miss Boyd. The guests who remained after tea much enjoyed the music provided by Miss Hurrell and her friend. Ten members and eighteen "Friends" joined, and twenty-nine copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

Kentish Federation.

Will all members kindly note the advertisement of the Kentish Federation, under "Suffrage Announcements," on page 348?

We are glad to report the affiliation of two Societies: Orpington, Hon. Sec., Mrs. Parkes, Oakover, Beaumont Road, and Sittingbourne, Hon. Sec., Miss Bullen, Park Street.

A large number of open-air meetings in connection with the Active Service League have been held in Kent, and it is hoped to have many more. So far they have been very successful and orderly. Maidstone, Ashford, and Sevenoaks have during the past month done particularly good work in their respective week's meetings, in town and country. During the coming month Maidstone district is to be worked, August 4th to 9th. Dover, round the coast to Sandwich and Margate, July 27th to August 1st. Sittingbourne and district, also villages not hitherto touched, Tenterden, Rolvenden district, August 10th to 15th. Sidcup, Dartford, Gravesend district, August 17th to 22nd. Among the speakers at these meetings will be Miss Philippa Fawcett, the Misses Hamilton, Miss Barnett, Miss Coleman (Sevenoaks), Miss Thompson (Brentwood), Mrs. Grahame, Mrs. Thompson, Miss Nixon, Miss Griffith-Jones, Miss Murray, and Mrs. Hertzberg.

ASHFORD.—The weekly open-air meetings begun in May have been continued till July 10th. The speakers have been Miss Murray, Mrs. Rogers, Miss Gloyn and Miss Dawson. Much interest has been shown in the meetings, and many "Friends'" cards have been signed. From June 29th to July 4th work was undertaken with the help of Miss Griffith-Jones and Miss Murray, in the surrounding villages of Chaurig, Wye, Chart, Kennington, and Lenham. In some of the villages the existence of non-militant Suffragists had not been heard of before. The series of meetings has been successful in gaining many sympathisers.

CHATHAM AND GILLINGHAM.—A very successful meeting was held at Chatham, at which Miss Muriel Matters was the speaker. Her large audience was composed mainly of sailors and dock-yard employees. Several "Friends'" cards were signed, 8s. 5d. was collected, and the copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold out.

Miss Thompson addressed an interesting meeting at Gillingham, and questions were asked at the end of the meeting. The audiences were larger and more attentive than those of last year.

HERNE BAY.—Mrs. Rogers spoke very effectively at two meetings on June 27th. One was held on the East Cliff, and one on the West Cliff. The Chairman was Mr. Cowper Field, and Mr. Stainbrooke, editor of the *Herne Bay Press*, was present at both meetings, giving a full account of the meetings in his paper afterwards. He also published an excellent editorial the night before, with a letter signed by the President and Chairman. A good many copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and many "Friends'" cards were signed. Five new members joined.

FOLKESTONE AND DISTRICT.—On June 30th an open-air meeting was held at Newington, a small village where no meetings have been held before. Mrs. Henry Kingsley, the speaker, was listened to with great attention. On July 14th a meeting was held at Lyminge, where Mrs. Kingsley and Miss Staines spoke.

MAIDSTONE.—A very successful week of open-air meetings was held at Tawmeadow, from June 22nd to June 27th. The meetings began at 8.30 p.m., and on some evenings were carried on till after 10 p.m. The speakers were Mrs. Rogers, Miss Griffith-Jones, Miss Young, Miss Dawson, and Miss Philippa Fawcett.

MARGATE.—A most successful garden meeting was held on Saturday, July 11th, by the kindness of the hostesses, Mrs. and Miss Teetgen, at Winchmore, Westgate-on-Sea. Miss Muriel Matters was the speaker. Great interest was shown by those present. Thirteen new members were enrolled, and four wished to be transferred from London to this branch.

BRENCHLEY, MATFIELD, AND PEMBURY.—This branch of the N.U.W.S.S. held an open-air meeting on Matfield Green on June 25th, at 8 p.m. Mrs. Rogers (London) spoke on "Sweated Workers," and the value of the vote, to a fairly large and attentive audience.

Mrs. Perkin held an at home meeting at the Grange, Matfield, on Friday, July 10th, at 3.30 p.m., when Miss Muriel Matters addressed a well-attended gathering very eloquently. An open-air meeting was held at Brenchley the same evening, Miss Muriel Matters again being the speaker, to a fair audience, and questions at the close were asked.

ORPINGTON.—An open-air meeting was held on June 27th. Miss Dawson spoke to a very large audience, and the meeting went off very successfully.

RAMSGATE.—A very pleasant garden meeting was held at Danescliffe, St. Lawrence, on June 29th, by kind permission of Mrs. Bacon, a member of the Ramsgate Committee. The chair was taken by Miss Griffith-Jones and Mrs. Rackham gave an interesting address on Women's Suffrage to a most attentive audience. Tea was served, and this was followed by a sale of home-made cakes, fruit, flowers, &c., by which a substantial sum was realised. Some new members and "Friends" joined.

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT.—On June 20th, Miss Philippa Fawcett spoke to a most attentive open-air audience. Four "Friends" were made, THE COMMON CAUSE was sold, and 2s. 5d. collected. On June 27th, at an open-air meeting, Miss Fielden was the speaker. The audience was large, and deeply interested. The annual meeting was held in the grounds of Kippington Vicarage, on July 2nd. Hostess, Mrs. Percy Thompson. Speaker, Mrs. Dougins Knocker. Chairman, Canon Beanlands. Eleven members and twenty-one "Friends" were gained. £1 19s. 2d. was made by collection and sale of THE COMMON CAUSE.

On July 3rd there was an open-air meeting at Westerham. Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters. One

member and fourteen "Friends" were gained. The collection and sale of THE COMMON CAUSE amounted to £1 0s. 2d.

On July 4th, Miss Muriel Matters spoke at Sevenoaks to a large audience. Three "Friends" joined.

On July 17th Miss Palmer spoke to a satisfactory audience at the village of Riverhead. Seven "Friends" were gained.

There was an open-air meeting at Seal. Speaker, Miss Gloyn. Ten "Friends" joined.

On July 10th Miss Gloyn addressed an open-air meeting at Sevenoaks. The audience was excellent. Two members and ten "Friends" were gained.

By request of the members, Miss Coleman addressed the Women's Co-operative Guild, on July 14th. Seven members were gained.

The Sevenoaks Society has good reason to be satisfied with the work done during the past month.

SHOREHAM AND OTFORD.—An open-air meeting was held at Shoreham, on the afternoon of Saturday, July 4th. The speaker was Miss Muriel Matters, and Mrs. Percy Thompson took the chair.

ST. MARY CRAY.—On June 22nd, Miss Griffith Jones spoke to the Co-operative Guild.

A very successful afternoon meeting was held at St. Mary Cray, on June 27th. Miss Dawson was the speaker, and Miss Barratt, of Orpington, took the chair.

TONBRIDGE.—On June 23rd, Mrs. Rogers gave an address at the Angel Corner. Mrs. Humphreys took the chair; several "Friends'" cards were signed.

A garden meeting was held on June 24th, in conjunction with the C.A.U.W.F.A., at Hillside, by kind invitation of Mrs. Goldberg. Mr. Goldberg presided, and the chief speaker was Lady Betty Balfour. Seven new members were gained, and the collection was £2 7s. 9d.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—An open-air meeting was held on the Common on Saturday, July 11th, at 6.30 p.m. Owing to a misunderstanding the speaker was not present, but Miss Dickinson and Miss Mosely spoke in her place.

On July 18th an open-air meeting was held on the Common at 6.30 p.m. Miss Fielden gave an excellent address, much appreciated by the President, Madame Sarah Grand, and an audience mainly composed of strangers to the Cause.

West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation.

ORGANISER'S REPORT.

Seven meetings were held during the first week in June, at Runcorn and Widnes—two midday in Gossage's works, two in Devonshire Square, Runcorn, and three in Victoria Square, Widnes. Miss Macadam, Rev. Alex. Harvey, Mr. Lyon Blease, Mrs. Earp, Miss Anderson, and Miss Eskrigge, all took part in the speaking, and the following acted as stewards: Mrs. Laurence, Mrs. Snowden, Mrs. Arnitt, Miss Morris (Liverpool), Mrs. Pemberton, and three other helpers from Warrington, Miss Adams and Mrs. Raleigh from Chester.

The Widnes meetings were all three large, and there was no disturbance of any kind. The stewards who came over did good canvassing, so that the audiences were largely composed of people who came on purpose.

At Runcorn the children were noisy, but the main part of the audience was thoroughly appreciative, Mrs. Earp speaking excellently each night.

There were 400 cards signed during the week, and 164 copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold. Several new members were gained, so that Miss Anderson was left with a list of about twenty-five members between Runcorn and Widnes.

It was largely due to the excellent work of the stewards that so many cards were signed, and seeing them about in the crowd (with shoulder sashes in the colours) made much more impression than if the speakers had been unaccompanied.

In Blackpool and district, meetings were held at Fleetwood, Poulton, Kirkham, and on the sands at Blackpool, and at midday at the Burne Naze Works. The two meetings on Blackpool Sands were quiet on the whole. Permission to hold meetings on the sands was granted by the Chief Constable, only on condition that we distributed no literature, took no subscriptions, sold no newspapers. This accounts for the few copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold, only 108 during the week. As it was 167 cards were signed. We owe special thanks to the members of the Lytham Society, who came to nearly all the meetings and gave valuable help, also to Mrs. Farnworth, who came three times from Preston. Miss Edwards took much trouble in assisting our preliminary arrangements, and Miss Lee gave valued hospitality to Miss Eskrigge and Mrs. Earp.

The two meetings at Fleetwood were good, though for the first half hour on the Monday it looked like trouble. The second meeting was excellent in every way, many of the same people returning, and a resolution was well carried.

The meeting at Poulton was largely spoilt by church bells, which made it impossible for more than a few people to follow the speakers. Mrs. and Miss Roberts did invaluable work, as usual. Three members of the Lytham Society came over also to steward—Mrs. Sefton, Mrs. Haslam, and Major Greig.

At Kirkham we had a quiet, orderly meeting, of medium size, both Mrs. Earp and Mr. Arnott being evidently much appreciated.

It was evident that to make the public grasp the non-militancy of the N.U.W.S.S., open-air meetings are by far the best means. Also, that it is well worth while for town meetings to have a good band of active stewards. It is quite a new and very satisfactory feature of this summer's campaign that so many stewards volunteer from the surrounding Societies. Though there are few pledged members of the A.S.L., the "suggestion" of the duty of "active service" has borne this fruit, and the ends of the League are attained, and an immense stimulus given to open-air work.

BIRKENHEAD.—An open-air campaign was undertaken early in June. Mrs. Earp was the chief speaker. One of the meetings was held on June 8th, at the Park gates, another at Port Sunlight, on June 10th, in the dinner-hour. Ellesmere Port was visited on two days. Severe rain prevented the holding of a meeting the first day, but on the next we were gladdened by a most orderly crowd, and an excellent meeting was the result. Our experience in each place was that provided the Cause is advertised as non-militant, a good hearing is accorded to Suffragists by working-men. On June 11th, the Secretary addressed the Birkenhead Central Branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild.

CHESTER.—No members of this Society have been able to join the A.S.L., but fifteen offered to help during the series of open-air meetings held in the Eddisbury district. Of these, several gave their services two, three, or four times, to canvass, steward, &c., in the villages around Chester, both strengthening the meetings, and adding to their own experience in Suffrage work.

LIVERPOOL.—The Liverpool "Lightning Campaign," which began on June 8th, was brought to a formal close on Friday, June 26th, after three weeks' strenuous work. During the campaign, dinner-hour meetings, at which large crowds gathered, were held on the Exchange Flags. The speakers, who were listened to with the closest attention, included Miss Wyse, of Birkenhead, Miss J. Newton Harris and Mrs. Annot Robinson, of the Manchester and District Federation, Miss C. Leadly-Brown, Miss Elizabeth Macadam, M.A., Councillor Eleanor Rathbone, M.A., Rev. H. D. Roberts, and the acting hon. sec. of the Liverpool Society. Large quantities of literature were circulated, and many copies of "THE COMMON CAUSE" sold. A special canvass of members was also carried out during the campaign with most successful results. On June 25th, a garden meeting to welcome new members was held in the Pavilion Field, Greenbank, by the kind permission of Mrs. William Rathbone. Short addresses were given by Mrs. Egerton Stewart Brown, Miss C. Leadley-Brown, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, and the Acting Secretary, who urged the new entrants to begin missionary work at once, and to bring in many recruits. On Friday, June 26th, a religious service, organised by the Society, was held in the hall of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, Princes Avenue, at which the Rev. Alexander Connell, minister of the Sefton Park Presbyterian Church, preached an earnest and eloquent sermon, in which he exhorted Suffragists to "be of good courage, and persevere, the cause is of God and must prevail." This most inspiring and uplifting service brought to a fitting close the formal part of the campaign. It is hoped, however, that the success already achieved by the addition of 135 new members is only the beginning of much better things.

LLANDUDNO AND COLWYN BAY.—The Llandudno and Colwyn Bay Societies have just completed a series of six open-air meetings in the surrounding district, spread over about six weeks. The places visited are Llandudno, the Great Orme, Penrhynside village, Old Colwyn beach, Deganwny beach, Glan Conway, and Mochdre. A number of "Friends" have signed cards, and a great many persons have learnt, apparently for the first time, that there *is* a Non-Militant Suffrage Society, and that it is many thousands strong. The best meetings were those at the Great Orme, and Old Colwyn beach, where a considerable number of persons listened with sympathy and attention to our speakers. Smaller meetings were held at Penrhynside and Mochdre—both small villages, and both places where we held meetings previously. At Glan Conway, where most of the village turned out to hear us, there was, at the first, a good deal of noisy opposition. Militancy, and in particular church burning, was cast in our teeth, and some difficulty was experienced in convincing certain persons that we were not concerned with such methods, and absolutely repudiated them. The meeting closed quietly, and quiet conversation with groups of listeners revealed a good deal of sympathy with our cause. In every case we have to record with satisfaction and gratitude that a very considerable number of girls and boys listened with quietness and real interest to the speakers, and we count this not among the least of the good results of our Mission.

Mrs. Price White of Bangor gave us very valuable help at the Old Colwyn meeting as a speaker, and the Rev. J. Hughes, of Llandudno, earned our grateful thanks for two Welsh speeches made at Mochdre, in different parts of the village. Several of our members made their first appearance as out-of-door speakers, and Miss Eng, of the Wilmslow Society, helped us on two occasions.

SEAFORTH.—On June 27th the annual meeting was held at Seaforth Hall—near Liverpool. The Chairman was Mrs. E. Stewart-Brown, and an inspiring address was given by Mrs. H. Le G. Solly, on "The Growth of an Idea." It was an afternoon meeting, and the house and grounds of Seaforth Hall were thrown open to guests. Three new members joined the Society, fourteen F.W.S. cards were signed, and £1 7s. taken as collection.

SOUTHPORT.—On June 15th, at 4 p.m., a meeting was held, by kind permission of Miss E. Davies, at Stoneycroft, Birkdale. Miss Davies took the chair, and the speaker was the Rev. Fred. Hibbert. About sixty people listened with sympathy to a very good address, and three new members joined the Society. The collection was 17s. 4d., and F.W.S. leaflets (24) and postcards "Come off the Fence" (18) were sold. The Lightning Campaign and the postcard campaign evidently appealed more to the audience than the A.S.L.

SOUTHPORT.—In connection with A.S.L. work, a party of members visited Halsall, and after distributing handbills and literature among the villagers, held a meeting at the cross-roads. The attendance was small, and the attitude of the people clearly proves the need of such "spade work." Miss Rigby presided, and the Rev. E. Fleetwood proposed a resolution: "That this meeting calls upon the Government to pass a measure of Woman's Suffrage at the earliest possible moment." This was seconded by Miss McFine, and supported by Mr. Harrison (who had lent his lorry as a platform), and was carried nem. con.

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WALLASEY AND WIRRAL.—In connection with the Active Service League Campaign, in Wallasey, open-air meetings were held on June 24th, 25th, and 26th, on the sands at New Brighton, where large and orderly crowds assembled to hear Miss Macadam, Miss Leadley-Brown, and Miss Manning. The Chairmen were Miss Cherry, Mrs. Earnshaw, and Sidney Roberts, Esq. The crowd was particularly large on June 24th, it being Alexandra Day, and there was a demand for more speakers. All the meetings closed with applause, and 45 F.W.S. cards were signed.

WREXHAM.—On July 1st, a garden meeting was held at Gwersylet Hill, through the kindness of Mrs. Arthur Harrop, who entertained the Wrexham Suffrage Society in her beautiful garden. Very unfortunately a violent thunderstorm prevented many of the guests who had hoped to be present, but the informal gathering was much enjoyed by those who were fortunate enough to get to it. Miss Allington Hughes presided, and Miss Leadley-Brown spoke. Three new members were added to the numbers.

West of England Federation.

BRISTOL.—June 24th—A meeting at the Y.M.C.A., Totterdown, addressed by Miss Baretti. Subject: "Woman Suffrage in Practice."

June 25th—A meeting of the Westbury branch at Southfield Road. Hostess, Mrs. Boothroyd.

June 27th—An open-air meeting at the bottom of Westbury Hill. Mr. Clough was in the chair, and Miss Power gave an interesting address.

June 29th—A small meeting was held at the office to start the Active Service League here. Miss Hancock and Miss Hiley kindly consented to act as leaders. Owing to their exertions, and helped by Miss Clough, Bishopsworth, a village a little way out of Bristol, was visited, and on July 15th a very good meeting was held there, with Mrs. H. Hicks as chief speaker.

June 30th—An "At Home" was held at the office.

July 1st—By the kind invitation of Mrs. Taverner a meeting was held in Coronation Road. Owing to the weather the attendance was not large, but Miss Clough's address made a good impression. Mrs. J. Martin was in the chair.

July 7th—The last of the office, "At Homes" was held, when Mrs. Burrow Hill gave a very interesting talk on "Elementary Education."

CHELTENHAM.—By kind invitation of Miss J. Bourne a successful meeting was held at her beautiful house on the hill on July 1st. It was to have been a Garden Meeting, but the weather decided otherwise, and also lessened the audience. In spite of this it was quite a good meeting, several interesting outsiders being present. Lady Isabel Margerson speaking against a terrific thunderstorm, gave a deeply moving address. The usual resolution was carried unanimously, and a good collection was taken.

CIRENCESTER.—A most successful open-air meeting was held at Welford-on-Avon on June 22nd. Chair, Mrs. Wright. Speaker, Miss G. Hadow. Literature was distributed, and thirty-seven "Friends" and four members gave in their names. At the conclusion Mrs. Wright kindly entertained the whole company to tea.

CORSHAM.—On Saturday afternoon, July 11th, a well-attended and successful meeting took place on the lawn of Ivy House, the residence of Mrs. Mayo. Miss Tennant was in the chair, and Miss Baretti spoke. Miss Tennant briefly reviewed the work of the Society since its formation nine months ago, stating that it had already doubled its original membership. A resolution demanding a Government measure was carried unanimously, and ten new members and twenty-three "Friends" were enrolled. After the meeting the beautiful gardens were thrown open, and Miss Mayo most hospitably entertained the audience to tea.

EAST BRISTOL.—June 23rd, 3 p.m.—Open-air meeting, Beaconsfield Street—Speakers, Miss Clough and Mrs. Townley. Twelve "Friends." June 25th.—At 8 p.m., Soundwell Road—Mrs. Townley and Miss Tothill. Twelve "Friends." June 30th.—As a result of the Lightning Campaign, twenty-three new members were declared enrolled. July 9th.—Trinity Street—Councillor Wilton, Mrs. Townley, and Miss Tothill. Twenty "Friends." July 16th.—Soundwell Road—Rev. A. E. Bray, Miss Tothill, and Mr. W. Bottomley. Many "Friends."

TROWBRIDGE.—Through the kindness of Mrs. Pullinger (Hon. Secretary), a garden meeting was held at the Halve on June 30th. The gathering was quite informal, and was composed chiefly of those interested in the movement for women's enfranchisement and the local members. Mrs. Nelson Haden presided, and Mr. Shapley gave an address on "Why Women Want the Vote." A very enjoyable evening was spent.

WEST DORSET.—A garden fête was held at Bridport on July 2nd, in the charming grounds of Wanderwell, kindly lent by Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Stephens. Unfortunately, owing to the weather, the attendance was small, but the audience were much impressed by Miss Muriel Matters's eloquent speech, several joining the Society. The Rev. M. Dasent presided.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—A well-attended picnic was held in the woods on July 2nd. Mrs. Randall Vickers and Lieut.-Com. E. Aldridge, R.N., addressed the informal meeting which followed the tea. The speeches were listened to with keen interest and appreciation.

WINCHCOMBE AND DISTRICT.—The activities of this branch during the past seven weeks have abundantly justified the advice of our President, Dr. Earengey, to continue our existence in the hope of a revival of energy and enthusiasm. Since our annual meeting, December 12th, our membership has grown from twenty-six to thirty-six. But even more gratifying than the increase in numbers is the increase in keenness. Winchcombe has been divided into districts, and ten members, associates, and "Friends," nearly all of whom are either electors or political workers, have each undertaken one of these districts, making themselves responsible for the distribution to every house of a leaflet, giving facts about the law-abiding movement, and another with simple reasons why women should vote. Another member, with a bicycle, is carrying on similar work in the villages. On June 23rd, a well-attended and enthusiastic public meeting was held in the Town Hall. For the success of this venture we are indebted to Dr. Alice Burn, of Cheltenham, and Miss Kelly, Hon. Secretary of the Cheltenham branch of the C. and U. W.F.A., who not only addressed the meeting, but gave a delightful performance of "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky." Miss Sexby took the chair, Mr. Tovey gave a humorous recitation, and Mr. F. Bird moved the vote of thanks. A collection of 5s. 7d. was taken, and one new member and fifteen "Friends" were enrolled. Dr. Burns's speech on sex-equality in New Zealand made a deep impression on a number of working-class girls, who had hitherto taken no interest in the movement.

WINSCOMBE.—An open-air meeting was held at the Post-Office cross-roads on June 29th. Mr. R. C. Burn, M.A., presided, and Miss Matters delivered an eloquent address to a considerable gathering, which listened with close attention and was clearly much impressed. Mrs. Grubb proposed, and Mr. West seconded, a vote of thanks to speaker and chairman. Twelve copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

ORGANISER'S REPORT (MISS BALLANTINE).

FOREST OF DEAN.—A week's campaign here from July 6th to 11th has had excellent results. Four good meetings were held at Cinderford, Bream, Lydney, and Yorkley. Mrs. H. Hicks and Miss Baretti were the speakers, and Mr. S. J. Elsom and Mr. Ralph Williams were the chairmen. These gentlemen were supported by Mr. G. J. Elliott, Mr. Kear, Mr. Sims, and others. A resolution, calling for a Government measure, was passed at all four places, and ninety-three "Friends" and six members were enrolled. Collections amounting to £1 in all were taken, and nine dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. During the week information was received of a miners' demonstration to be held at Speech House on Saturday, July 11th, with Mr. Henry Webb, M.P. for the Division, and Mr. Vernon Hartshorn as speakers. Application was at once made for permission to send one of our speakers. Owing to shortness of notice this was refused for this year, but promised for next if the application is made in good time. A good supply of leaflets and copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were taken to the field, and nearly ten dozen of the latter were sold. An interview with Mr. Webb was obtained. He could not be induced to advance beyond his former declaration in favour of universal suffrage, except that he recognised that this attitude might easily be construed as an evasion of the whole question, and that therefore he would carefully consider any other measure brought forward on democratic lines. Later in the day a second meeting was held, at which two of the South African deportees spoke. A chance of speaking from this platform was offered our speakers, but, owing to lack of time, could not be accepted.

Miss Ballantine has also canvassed Bourton-on-the-Water, Stow-in-the-Wold, Morton-in-the-Marsh, and Mickleton, places round Campden (Glos.) She found a certain amount of interest in each place, and considers there is a fair prospect for Suffrage work in this district. She has also been obtaining information necessary for the forthcoming Gloucestershire "Forest of Christmas Trees."

West Riding Federation.

BINGLEY.—Tuesday, June 23rd.—In connection with the Lightning Campaign, two open-air meetings were held, addressed by Miss Geraldine Cooke. The afternoon meeting, which was preceded by tea, took place in the cricket field, and was presided over by Miss Scott. The evening meeting was presided over by Rev. C. R. Dalton. There was a very good and appreciative audience. Miss Cooke spoke on "Politics and the Home." These are the first open-air meetings held by the Bingley Society, and have proved a great success. Three dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. Thirty "Friends" signed cards.

BRADFORD.—Between June 17th and July 15th, the following meetings have been held:—

June 23rd—Open-air meeting, opposite the Peel Park Hotel, Otley Road—Speaker, Miss I. O. Ford—Chair, Mr. Rennie Foster. A very good meeting. Thirty copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and two new members enrolled.

June 30th—Drawing-room meeting, at 5, Eldon Place, in connection with the Active Service League, given by Mrs. Noakes—Speaker, Mrs. Renton, who explained A.S.L. in general, and the scheme of the West Riding in particular. Miss Ashby consented to be group leader, pro tem., and ten members were enrolled in the League. Mrs. Bernheim was hostess, in the absence of Mrs. Noakes, who was away owing to a family bereavement. Four members were added to our Society.

July 3rd—Garden party at Rossefield School, Heaton, given by Miss Gregson and Miss Rendall. Very good attendance; an excellent series of entertainments, the reading of Mrs. Ward's play, "Man and Woman," being particularly appreciated. The stall did well, and the whole sum taken amounted to £11. Eighteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. Literature and badges made 10s. 2d. Three new members were enrolled.

July 5th.—The Organising Secretary (Miss Ashby) addressed a meeting of the Bradford Moor I.L.P. Good attendance; well received. Suffrage resolution was passed unanimously. Eight "Friends" were enrolled.

July 14th—Open-air meeting (preliminary to one to be arranged for Miss Matters), held behind the Hanson School—Speaker, Miss Ashby—Chair, Miss Burgess. Good attendance of men and women; good discussion, and circles of conversation at the end. Thirteen "Friends" made; collection, 2s. 10d.

July 15th—Garden Party, given by Misses Wade, Oak Bank, Manningham—Speaker, Mrs. Renton—Chair, Mrs. Jacob Moser. Seventy tickets and seven copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. Five new members. The profits were over £4. Good reports of meeting in local Press.

A brisk correspondence has been carried on in the *Yorkshire Observer* between local anti-Suffragists and ourselves, and Miss Audrey Mary Cameron, Press Secretary of the N.L.O.W.S., the result, in our opinion, being well in our favour. Regarding the Lightning Campaign, we may say that forty new members have been made since May 1st. We hope to double our membership. Will all who have not made a new member kindly try to do so.

ETHEL S. LUND, Corresponding Secretary.

HUDDERSFIELD.—The Active Service League commenced work on June 23rd, at Linthwaite. A house to house canvass was made, and 300 leaflets were distributed. Twenty-six copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and thirty-two "Friends" signed cards. A Council meeting was held at Blackrock, and tea given by Mr. Lockwood to the Leaguers. Afterwards a public meeting was held (outdoors). A resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was passed.

ILKLEY.—On Saturday, June 13th, an open-air meeting was held on the bowling-green of the P.S.A. Hall. Alderman Pickles, of Bradford, took the chair, and Miss Earp gave an excellent address. On Thursday, June 25th, Mrs. Rabagliati, President of the Society, gave a garden party, at which Miss Geraldine Cooke gave an interesting address, which was very much enjoyed by all present, and Mrs. Renton spoke about the Active Service League, particularly about the Miniature Pilgrimage which she is organising in the Skipton Division. Several new members joined the Society, and some literature and copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

LEEDS.—June 24th—Miss Geraldine Cooke spoke with great effect at a drawing-room meeting, kindly given by Mrs. Oldroyd, of Roundhay. Mrs. Percy Leigh (P.L.G.) took the chair. There was a large attendance. To some of those present it was their first Suffrage meeting. Great interest was shown, and an animated discussion followed the address. Several new members joined, and a collection of nearly £3 was taken. The same evening Miss Cooke spoke at an open-air meeting in Armley Park. The district had been previously billed, and there was a large and attentive audience. Mr. Pye, of the Armley Labour Party, kindly took the chair. Twenty-four "Friends'" cards were signed, a good collection taken, and copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. During July a good deal of work has been done in preparation for a meeting to be held during the Wesleyan Conference in Leeds, on July 20th, to be addressed by Dr. Scott Lidgett, Dr. Jas. Hope Moulton, and Miss Muriel Matters. The task of sending invitations to all the Conference delegates and to their hosts and hostesses has only been made possible by a large amount of voluntary help, for which the Secretary is most grateful. Several more members have undertaken F.W.S. work, and for this, too, many more volunteers are needed. COMMON CAUSE selling has been continued at corner of Briggate and Boar Lane every Friday morning, and is proving to be an invaluable form of propaganda. Fresh volunteers are greatly needed that more pitches may be occupied. Will those who cannot offer for this work please give help in the rapidly increasing office work, even if only for an hour or two a week? Office address—35, Park Square. The office will be closed all August, but letters will be forwarded.

NORMANTON.—June 30th — A successful "At Home" was held in Normanton which gave the local N.U.W.S.S. an opportunity of disassociating itself from the militancy of to-day. The President, Mrs. Johnson, explained the objects and methods of the Society, with special reference to the Lightning Campaign. A delightful programme of songs and recitals had been arranged, and added much to the general enjoyment. Mrs. W. F. Copp spoke for forty-five minutes on "Woman Suffrage" to an audience whose interest never flagged. Miss Martin proposed, and Miss Dutton (Hon. Secretary) seconded, a vote of thanks to the speaker, artistes, and all who had helped to make the evening such a success. On July 6th, Mrs. W. F. Copp spoke on "The Woman-worker and her Wage" to the members of the British Women's Temperance Association. Mrs. W. F. Copp spoke on the same subject at night to the members of the Sisterhood.

ROTHERHAM.—On Saturday, July 11th, the Rotherham Suffrage Club met at Westgate Station at 2.30, and took the train to Sheffield, and from thence by car to Malin Bridge. Then the tramp began. We walked throughout the length of the Rivelin valley, distributing on the way literature supplied by Mr. Booker. Some of the people we met in the valley looked astonished when we handed them a Suffrage leaflet, but they read it, and this raining of leaflets over the Rivelin valley was quite an effective bit of propaganda work. Another tramp has been arranged for the third Saturday in August, when we hope to shower Suffrage literature in another direction.

SHEFFIELD.—A sale of work was held on the afternoon of Thursday, June 25th, at the Montgomery Hall, on behalf of our funds. The sale was informally opened by Dr. Helen Wilson. There was a good attendance of members and "Friends," and the sum of £35 was realised.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Correspondents are urgently requested to write distinctly; and to send in NOT LATER THAN THE MONDAY FIRST POST before the announcement is to be inserted, addressed to the Sub-Editor.

London.

JULY 24.

Southwark—Corner of St. George' Circus and Borough Road—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. Harford Worlock

Walthamstow—Open-air Meeting—Miss Fielden 8.0

JULY 25.

Bow—Garden Meeting at Harley House, Bow Road—Entertainment by East London Girls' Club—Refreshments—Chair, the Rev E. T. Kitcat 6.0

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...well Hill—Exchange—Chair, Mr. Watts—Philippa Fawcett, Mrs. Ffranbury 8.0

JULY 27.

...d. St. Pancras—Open-air Meeting—Corner of ...rk and Arlington Road—Speakers, Miss Ellen ...alshe, Miss Meikle 8.0

JULY 28.

N. Lambeth—Open-air Meeting—Corner of Sancroft Street and Kennington Road—Speaker, Miss Fawcett 8.0

JULY 29.

Ealing—Garden Party at "Ingleside," Edgehill Road—Hostess, Mrs. McBride—Chair, Prof. de Sumichrast—Speaker, Mrs. Corbett Fisher 4.30

JULY 30.

Barnes—Open-air Meeting—Opposite Sun Inn—Speakers, Miss Sheepshanks, Miss Fawcett, Mrs. Baker 8.0

E. Islington—Open-air Meeting—Corner of Riversdale Road and Blackstock Road—Chair, Mr. Few, Miss McGrigor 8.0

JULY 31.

Battersea—Open-air Meeting—Rush Hill Road, Lavender Hill—Chair, Mrs. Worthy—Speaker, Mr. Clifford Ewen 8.15

Southwark—Open-air Meeting—Corner of Tenison Street and York Road, Waterloo—Speakers, Miss Jameson, Miss Walshe 8.0

AUGUST 2.

Hyde Park—Miss Helen Fraser, Miss Mary Fielden, J. Y. Kennedy, Esq.

The Provinces.

JULY 24.

Bristol—At the Horse-fair—Dinner-hour Meeting—Miss Helen Fraser and others

Bury St. Edmunds—Open-air—Mrs Rackham 7.30

Guildford—Church Room, Staughton—Chair, Mrs. Swinburn—Mrs. Cowmeadow 3.0

The Green, Ripley—Chair, Miss Baker—Mrs. Cowmeadow 7.30

Ickleford—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Frederic Taylor and Miss A. Villier

Newcastle—Garden Fête, "The Willows," Clayton Road, by kind permission of Mrs. G. B. Hunter—Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters—Competitions, Morris Dancing, Cake and Candy Sale 3.30—6.30

If wet, sale and meeting to be held at 78, Jesmond Road.

North Sands—Miss Foxley, M.A., Miss Ashton-Jones 11.0

Romford and District—Meeting for members and likely members—Romford Baths, Mawneys Road—Miss Creak 8.0

Woodley—Smithy Green—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Chew—Chair, Mr. Clement Bundrock

JULY 25.

North Sands—Miss Foxley, M.A., Miss Ashton-Jones 11.0

West Herts Society—Garden Meeting for Teachers—The Linders, Mascot Road, Watford—Hostess—, Mrs. White, Chair, Mr. John R. Ismay—Miss A. G. Hewitt (N.U.T.)

Wokingham—Easthampstead Park—Hostess, The Marchioness of Downshire—The Countess of Selborne, Miss Helen Fraser 3.0

JULY 27.

Bardon Mill—Open-air—Miss Beaver, Miss Armstrong 7.0

Brighton and Hove—White Elephant Sale, in grounds of 26, Willing Road 3.30

Dover—Miss Griffith Jones and Miss Hamilton. 8.0

Haltwhistle—Market Place—Miss Meikle, Miss A. E. G. Westwood 7.0

Hayden Bridge—Open-air—Miss Gordon, Miss A. E. Westwood 7.0

Herne Bay—Mrs. Rackham—Afternoon and evening

Leeds—Mrs. Christopher James "At Home"—Pen y Cym, Chapel Allerton—Stock Exchange Tea 3.30—5.30

Manchester—Open-air Meeting—Tibb Street corner—Mrs. Muter Wilson and Mr. Eastwood 8.0

South Salford Suffrage Club, Oldfield Hall—Mrs. Pearson and Mrs. Atack 8.0

Newport (Salop)—The Square—A.S.L. meeting—Mrs. Harley, Miss Eskrigg, and others 8.0

Reading—Wokingham Road Schools—Chair, Councillor Sarjeant—Miss Margaret Jones, Mr. Oliver Strachey 8.0

Southport—North Marine Park—A.S.L. meeting—Horace Crawfurd, Esq., Liberal candidate for the division.

Wellington (Salop)—The Square—A.S.L. Meeting—Miss Leadley Browne 8.0

JULY 28.

Barrasford—Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A., Miss Armstrong 6.30

Cambridge—Market Place—Chair, Mrs. Rackham—Miss Matters 8.0

Fourstones—Open-air—Miss Meickle, Miss E. A. Westwood 7.0

Humshaugh—Miss Beaver, Miss E. G. Westwood 6.30

Market Drayton—The Butter Market—A.S.L. meeting—Mrs. Harley, Miss Leadley Brown, and others 8.0

Rotherham—Roman Terrace—Chair, Councillor Siddall (of Roman Terrace), Mrs. Oldham 7.0

St. Margaret-at-Cliff—Mrs. Herzberg and Miss Hamilton 8.0

Southwold—Market Place—Chair, Mrs. Charles Foster—Mr. W. H. Murlees.

JULY 29.

Acomb—Miss Beaver, Miss A. E. Westwood 7.0

Allendale Town—Miss C. M. Gordon, Miss E. G. Westwood 6.0

Bournemouth—Open-air meeting 8.0

Deal—South Street—Miss Hamilton and Miss Barnett 7.0

Hexham—Market Place—Miss Meickle, Miss Armstrong 7.0

Kingsdown—Miss Griffith Jones and Miss Coleman 8.0

Whitchurch (Salop)—The Park—Mrs. Harley, Miss Leadley Brown, and others 8.0

JULY 30.

Bellingham—Miss Gordon, Miss Armstrong 6.30

Branch End, Stocksfield—Miss Meikle, Miss E. G. Westwood 6.0

Corbridge—Market Place—Miss Beaver, Miss A. E. Westwood 7.0

Great Mongeham—Miss Griffith Jones and Miss Barnett 8.0

Guildford—Maesmar, West Horsley (by kind permission of Mrs. Riddock)—Chair, Miss Baker—Miss Aston

Manchester—Open-air meeting at Alexandra Terrace, Stockport Road, Levenshulme—Councillor M. Ashton, M.A., and Mr. Crane 8.0

Rotherham—Dalton Brook—Open-air—Chair, Mr. Arnley (of Dalton), Councillor D. B. Foster, Mrs. Oldham 7.30

Walmer—Miss Hamilton and Miss Coleman 7.0

Wem (Salop)—The Cricket Field—A.S.L. meeting—Mr. Harley, Miss Leadley Brown, and others 8.0

Worthing—Garden meeting for Friends—The Shrubbery, Broadwater—Speaker, Miss Tympany—Monologue, Mrs. Chapman 3.0

JULY 31.

Eastrig—Miss Griffith Jones, Mrs. Coleman 7.0

Ellesmere—A. S. L. Meeting—Mrs. Harley, Miss Leadley Brown, and others 8.0

Mickley—Miss Meikle, Miss A. E. Westwood 7.30

Ovingham—Miss Beaver, Miss E. G. Westwood 6.0

Prudhoe—Miss Meikle, Miss A. E. Westwood 6.0

Sandwich—Market Place—Miss Hamilton and Miss Barnett 7.0

Stamfordham—Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A., Miss Armstrong 7.0

West Wylam—Miss Beaver, Miss E. G. Westwood 7.30

AUGUST 1.

Margate—Cecil Square—Miss Hamilton and Miss Griffith Jones 8.0

Oswestry—A.S.L. Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Harley, Miss Leadley Brown, and others 8.0

Scotland.

JULY 24.

Leith (Edinburgh Society)—Mrs. Aldersley 8.0

JULY 25.

Edinburgh, South (A.S. League)—Mrs. Aldersley 4.0

JULY 27.

Addiewell (Edinburgh Society)—Mrs. Aldersley Evening

Aberdeen—Open-air—Sir Victor Horsley 8.0

St. Andrew's Society—Meetings in Newburgh and district, 27th to 31st—Miss Moody, Miss Stuart Paterson

JULY 28.

Hunterfield (Edinburgh Society)—Mrs. Aldersley 7.0

JULY 29.

Aberdeen—"Flower Day"

Newcraighall (Edinburgh Society)—Mrs. Aldersley 7.30

[One or two notices have been sent in without dates, and several without the time of meeting.]

Deptford Women Workers.

The Deptford women workers deserve heartiest congratulations on their demonstration on the 19th, when they came out for the first time with the men's unions to demand the total abolition of fines, deductions, and living-in. Marching in procession, with bands and banners, to Southwark Park, the demonstrators were there addressed by leaders of labour.

The Woman's Theatre.

The Woman's Theatre announces a second season of one week at the Coronet Theatre, beginning November 30th next.

As before the expenses of the enterprise will be met by shares of £1 and upward, the money being returnable in tickets to the value of 25s. for the £, so that all shareholders who sell their tickets for face value may swell the funds of some society in the amount of 5s. on each share allotted. This arrangement was found to answer well last year.

It has been deemed advisable to offer further facilities for taking out the seats, and therefore shareholders will have the choice of various combinations of tickets.

Seeing that on the last season the shareholders were paid 57½ per cent. on the £, it is not very surprising that the share list of £500 is filling up rapidly, and intending applicants, who desire to help their societies should therefore apply for shares at once to the Hon. Organising Secretary, Woman's Theatre, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

International Suffrage Shop.

Visitors to London will be glad to know of the Garden Party at 1, Fitzjohn Avenue, Swiss Cottage, N.W., in aid of the funds of the International Suffrage Shop, 11, Adam Street, Strand, where tickets and full particulars can be obtained.

A most attractive programme has been arranged with the kind assistance of the Actresses' Franchise League. Suffragists will be glad of this opportunity of showing their appreciation of the Shop.

The Executive Committee of the Northern Men's Federation have decided to advise all members of the Federation to refuse any support to the Liberal Party at the General Election.

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